

Hafa Adai!

Anaks seeks to stay Zoning permit for AK dealership project. **PAGE 2**
Saipan public invited to view USCG helicopter, meet the crew. **PAGE 7**

\$1

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King-Hinds

'CPA gave partners \$817,019 in discounts using ARPA funds'

» **King-Hinds claims that Star Marianas Air owes CPA \$4.7M in aviation and other fees as of Jan. 31, 2023**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports

Authority gave all its tenants/partners a total of \$817,019 aviation discounts covering the period from July 2020 to

December 2021 using CPA's American Rescue Plan Act funds, according to CPA
See CPA on Page 4

Southern Air may sue NMI gov't

DeLeon Guerrero says CNMI cannot afford any further litigation, cites need for a dialogue



By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Southern Airways, the largest commuter airline in the United States and partner of Marianas Southern Airways, has implied that it may

file a lawsuit against the CNMI government, even as it asked for a dialogue with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and for him to rescind his termination notice immediately, as well as pay \$918,000 in invoices that have been billed thus far. *See SUE on Page 4*

Senate Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Saipan) presides over a public hearing yesterday to discuss with the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Marianas Visitors Authority what they're doing to address the CNMI's air transportation challenges with regards to interisland travel. Also in the photo are members of the PUTC Committee, and officials of the Marianas Southern Airways and Star Marianas Air.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Lower revenue may lead to loss of airline partners

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority fears that, with its revenue significantly decreased and its American Rescue Plan Act funds nearly depleted, the most



Tenorio

viable option so it could survive would have to impose higher rates, which could lead to a loss in the CNMI's airline partners.

The poor state

that the CPA will soon find itself once it completely exhausts its federal ARPA funding became a focal point of discussions yesterday at a public hearing the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications

See LOWER on Page 4

US, South Korea hold drills as North sub test-fires missiles

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The South Korean and U.S. militaries launched their biggest joint exercises in years on Monday while North Korea

said it tested submarine-fired cruise missiles in an apparent protest of the drills it views as an invasion rehearsal.

North Korea's launches Sunday signal the country likely will conduct provoca-

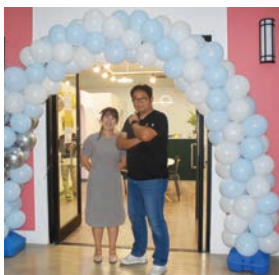
See US on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:

198

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The Good Photo Shop in Chalan Kanoa is the new craze in town for young ones and adults.

PAGE 12



NATION

A Russian fighter jet strikes the propeller of a U.S. surveillance drone over the Black Sea.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

Lindsay Lohan is expecting her first child, announcing her pregnancy in an Instagram post.

PAGE 15



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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Anaks seeks stay on AK dealership project

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Anaks Ocean View Hill Homeowners Association is asking the Superior Court to put on hold the Zoning permit issued to Atkins Kroll to build a Toyota/Lexus dealership and vehicle repair facility in Puerto Rico.

Anaks, through attorneys Kathryn B. Fuller and Colin Thompson, has filed a stay on the Zoning permit issued to

Atkins Kroll for the construction of its new dealership and auto shop, claiming irreparable harm.

If the stay is granted, the ruling would essentially put the construction project on hold. The project broke ground last week.

“[Anaks] requests that the court issue a stay with respect to Zoning permit 2022-10382 to prevent irreparable harm to Anaks, and if it determines that oral arguments will assist

the court, hold a hearing in 15 days,” motion states.

Anaks argues that the conditional permit subjects Anaks residents to imminent exposure to a dramatic increase in noise pollutions and exposures to carcinogenic air pollutants, among other things.

“The proposed project will generate noise from a standby generator, and unknown number of air compressors, and unknown number of impact wrenches, as well as air condi-

tioning units that will run 24/7. No one can accurately predict the cumulative level of noise generated by the project because [Atkins Kroll] failed to model the decibel level from the facility at the property line despite Anaks’ concern,” said the motion.

Previously, the NMI Supreme Court ruled in favor of Anaks’ appeal to vacate the Superior Court’s previous decision to dismiss its petition against the Zoning permit

issued to Atkins Kroll. The Supreme Court found that the association’s petition was filed within the time required,

therefore the Superior Court’s previous dismissal should be set aside.

See **ANAKS** on Page 4

PET OF THE WEEK

Charity

Charity is super friendly and about 6 to 8 months old. She has so much love to give to everyone. All she wants to do is cuddle. She is great on a leash and loves to give kisses. She’s just the sweetest and happiest girl!

She is available for adoption at the Saipan Mayor’s Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido. Dogs adopted there come with vaccination and discounted flea and tick medicine. The registration fee is \$30 per dog. There are many friendly dogs and puppies waiting to find



their forever home so come check them out!

Shelter hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. Contact them at (670)-234-3647 (DOGS).

Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, co-founder of the Boonie Flight Project of Guam, in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor’s Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. Whether you are looking for a guard dog, lap dog, hiking buddy, or playful puppy, they most likely have the dog for you!

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
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Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/22/2023)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson’s Report
 - A. Off-island Wholesalers
- VII. Director’s Report
 - A. OPA Filing of Statement of Financial Interest for Calendar Year 2022
 - B. Independent Dental Practice Monitoring Reviewer – Dr. Song Rhim
- VIII. Investigator’s Report - None
- IX. Communications from the Governor’s Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor’s Office
 1. Revisions to the Appropriation and Budget Authority Act for FY2023
 2. Budget Call for FY2024
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
 - A. Proposed Amendments for § 185-10-2600 - Dentists, Dental Assistants, Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board’s Review
 - A. New Application
 - B. Renewal Application
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

PROJECT ENGINEER: Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering (may be foreign equivalent). Design civil engineering aspects of major projects including review and analysis of drawings, technical specifications and other necessary documents to effectively prepare the costs for materials, labor and equipment. Making sure the project complies with legal requirements, especially health and safety. Send resume to: **PARAGON CORPORATION dba COREPLUS CONSTRUCTION**, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 10001, PMB 485, Saipan, MP 96950.



PILGRIMAGE TOUR

Alex Dunn, left, a former United Airlines pilot of 32 years and one-time pilot of the lone, operational B-29 used by the Commemorative Air Force for traveling air shows, recently visited Saipan for DiscoverSaipan.com's World War II Pilgrimage tour. Dunn is seen here with John S. Castro-Mames, center, project coordinator of the Seafaring Traditions Program in Susupe, along with author/guide Walt F.J. Goodridge.

TYLER WARWICK

Man who strangled wife gets one-year imprisonment term

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has sentenced a man to an imprisonment term of one year after he pleaded guilty to charges related to an incident where he assaulted his wife.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Venusto Mangarero to an imprisonment term of one year, all suspended except for 30 days, with credit for 10 days of time served, leaving the defendant with just 20 more days to serve.

Mangarero, 66, will be released from custody on March 26, and will be placed on supervised probation for two years.

In addition, he will pay a \$280 probation fee and perform 60 hours of community service.

Initially, Mangarero was charged with assault and battery, strangulation, and disturbing the peace. He was found guilty of assault and battery; the other charges were dropped as part of a plea deal.

According to court documents, at around 3:55am on Dec. 3, the Department of Public Safety received a call from a witness who reported a woman yelling for help in a white Toyota Tacoma behind the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

DPS immediately sent out an advisory to all police units to be on the lookout for the vehicle described by the caller. At 4:03am, police located the vehicle in a parking lot of a supermarket in

Chalan Piao.

Police noted that Mangarero was seated on the driver side of the truck without a shirt while a woman sat in the front passenger seat appearing emotionally distressed and was avoiding eye contact.

After the officer asked Mangarero if they were okay, he told the officer they were and proceeded to enter the supermarket. With Mangarero gone, the officer asked the woman if she were okay, to which she replied in a shaky voice that Mangarero took her to the "woods" to choke her. When the defendant returned, he was arrested.


Officers also noted that when the victim tried to walk, they saw that she had difficulty putting pressure on her right foot, had a rash on her neck, and blood underneath her right thumb. She claims that Mangarero hurt her foot with the vehicle door and choked her with both his hands, so she scratched his face.

She told another officer that Mangarero accused her of having an affair and hiding his phone from him, adding that she almost blacked out when Mangarero choked her.

Mangarero told police that he and his wife had gone to Obyan Beach to look for bananas. When they got there, he said she asked him why he took her there before trying to get out of the truck.

He said he told his wife not to get out of the truck because it was dark, but she was not listening. So, he said he roughly pushed his


wife's feet into the truck, grabbed her neck with both hands, pushed her into the truck, and told her to stop it. He said they then went to the supermarket.




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US

From Page 1

tive weapons testing during the U.S.-

SUE

From Page 1

In a March 1, 2023, letter that Southern Airways chair and chief executive officer Stan Little wrote Palacios—a portion of which Marianas Southern Airways vice president William Giles read yesterday before the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee—Little stated that a termination of service comes with great consequence to the CNMI. He cited the financial implications from the unemployment claims that will likely be filed by over 30 of their employees and for the “termination of convenience” damages that Southern Airways will file, pursuant to a provision in the original contract.

Palacios terminated last Feb. 23 the government’s \$8 million contract with MSA, citing a lack of funding.

In his letter to Palacios, Little said he is hopeful that their company and Palacios can soon issue a positive joint statement to the public that not only instills confidence among residents that they will never again be stranded and feel hopeless due to the whims of just one aircraft operator, but also sends a message to the rest of the world, not just the aviation community, that the CNMI is open for business and welcomes economic investment.

MSA and Southern Airways has since stated that Palacios has not responded to their letter, nor made any effort to communicate with them.

PUTC Committee chair Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) held the public hearing to discuss with the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Marianas Visitors Authority what they’re doing to address the CNMI’s air transportation challenges with regards to interisland travel.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), who attended the hearing, said it is in the interest of all parties in any business to have a conversation.

“And I will say for the record that the CNMI cannot afford any further

South Korean drills that are expected to run for 11 days. Last week, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his troops to be ready to repel rivals’ “frantic war preparation moves.”

litigation on any matter. I would definitely do not want to see that. I am hopeful that some kind of communication can happen,” DeLeon Guerrero said.

Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) said she will make an effort to reach out to the governor about MSA’s request for a dialogue.

Manglona noted that Oscar M. Babauta, the special assistant for administration, was present for the most part of the hearing and that he is sure that Palacios or the administration is listening to the discussion as it’s televised live.

Little stated in his letter to Palacios that their reputation of being a reliable, safe, and affordable airline has never before been impugned by the way it was by his (Palacios) recent decision and its accompanying news release.

“Regardless, we are not seeking an apology, but rather a forum to determine if either side wishes to find a path forward,” Little said.

He said everyone will be made aware that Southern Airways passed on many easier and more lucrative route possibilities to instead establish a base 16 time zones away from their corporate headquarters in Palm Beach, Florida.

Little said this was due to their perception of the long-term need in the CNMI and their expertise in operating routes in such a remote environment.

He noted that in December 2021, the only airline (Star Marianas Air) serving the Marianas archipelago abruptly suspended operations, disconnecting the people of Rota and Tinian from essential services and medical care that are only available on Saipan and Guam.

“This also served as a dire warning to the business community that your island economy would come to a grinding halt should such a lapse in air service become permanent,” the CEO said.

As a result of an emergency declaration by Palacios’ predecessor, former governor Ralph DLG Torres, Southern Airways was identified as the only potential and qualified airline partner to provide stability for the air

North Korea’s increasing nuclear threats, along with concerns about China’s ambitions, is pushing the United States to beef up its Asian alliances. In the past year, North Korea has been

service needs of the islands, he said.

“We were not looking for an opportunity, but when called upon, we saw the similarities between the essential need of connecting the CNMI to the services we were already providing in Hawaii. We felt compelled to act,” Little said.

He said they traveled to the CNMI in January 2022 and openly met with the Torres administration, members of the Legislature, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Little said a fair agreement was reached, and with bipartisan support, it was approved by Torres, former Finance secretary David DLG Atalig, and Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

He said the basics of their contract were that in exchange for investing in brand new aircraft for the islands, developing infrastructure, and expending a huge amount of human capital, they would be paid a monthly incentive for every flight flown.

Little said that Palacios’ public criticism of this being a sole-source contract, while factually correct, is “patently unfair” as the criteria for receiving such a contract was satisfied under the CNMI law.

“This needless demonization lacks an understanding of the current state of the global airline industry. We are the only airline in the world that would have taken this risk,” he said.

The CEO said he is completely confident that no outside airline will ever again take a risk on interisland travel within the CNMI.

Little said that Palacios’ claim that this is a “lucrative” contract has actually amused many of their colleagues in the airline business, since it is readily apparent to anyone in the industry that, even with the incentive payments, they are and will continue to lose tens of thousands of dollars each month until these routes are fully matured.

The CEO said they believe that 18 months of government subsidy and verbal support (or silence) from the administration can lead to a sustainable and long-term air service solution that can last for generations.

which is currently being disputed in the Superior Court.

As a possible remedy, CPA urged the Senate to help CPA in crafting a Small Community Air Service Development Program grant application that could, in turn, address some of the CNMI’s interisland air service issue through much needed funding.

“I urge the committee to not only support the hardworking staff of CPA but to also support collaboration between the CNMI government and CNMI business leaders in crafting an effective Small Community Air Service Development Program grant application. This program can be a vital tool in helping the CNMI address air service and airfare issues. The solutions offered by this program include revenue guarantees and financial assistance for marketing programs, startup costs, and studies. A competitive application requires support from the entire community,” he said.

steadily expanding its nuclear arsenal, as China and Russia repeatedly blocked U.S.-led efforts to toughen sanctions on the North despite its barrage of banned missile tests.

The South Korean-U.S. drills include a computer simulation and several combined field training exercises. South Korean officials said the field exercises would return to the scale of the allies’ earlier largest field training that was last held in 2018.

The North’s official Korean Central News Agency said that the launches of two cruise missiles from a submarine off its east coast showed a resolve to respond with “overwhelming powerful” force to the intensifying military maneuvers by “the U.S. imperialists and the South

Korean puppet forces.”

KCNA called the missiles “strategic” weapons and said their firings verified the posture of the country’s “nuclear war deterrence.” This implies that North Korea intends to arm the cruise missiles with nuclear warheads, though it’s still unknown if it has overcome the last remaining technological barriers to acquire functioning nuclear-tipped missiles.

It said the missiles flew more than two hours, drawing figure-eight-shaped patterns and demonstrating an ability to hit targets 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) away. The missiles were fired from the 8.24 Yongung ship, KCNA said, referencing a submarine that North Korea used to conduct its first submarine-launched ballistic missile test in 2016.

CPA

From Page 1

board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds yesterday.

Appearing before the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications hearing yesterday, King-Hinds said that CPA did provide everybody a discount from July 2020 to December 2021, under their COVID-19 Tenant Relief Program-Aviation Discounts, once CPA received its ARPA funds.

Senate PUTC chair Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) called for the public hearing to discuss with CPA and the Marianas Visitors Authority what they’re doing to address the CNMI’s air transportation challenges with regards to interisland travel. Manglona wants to know from the existing interisland airline companies how the government and Legislature can assist them.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said the hearing is a great opportunity to have a candid and open conversation regarding the issues facing the CNMI’s interisland transportation with all the service providers.

“I think the Senate is open, and I personally would like to hear from all the parties and see we could address the issue once and for all,” said DeLeon Guerrero at the start of the hearing.

On the issue of aviation discounts, King-Hinds said that from July 2020 to May 2021, they gave everybody 50% aviation discount, and from June 2021 to December 2021 they gave everybody 100% discount.

“So we took whatever ARPA funds that we had, and gave everybody a 50% discount initially, and then a 100% discount,” she said.

King-Hinds said from the period of July 2020 to December 2021, they gave United Airlines a discount of \$281,214; Star Marianas Air, \$346,471; Jeju, \$346,471; Asiana, \$47,855; POI, \$817; MACS,

\$45,420; and T’Way, \$50,729—for a total of \$817,019.

With the \$346,471 discount given to Star Marianas Air, Senate President DeLeon Guerrero asked SMA board chair Bob Christian how much the passengers benefited from this discount.

Christian said the discounts that CPA is alluding to weren’t really discounts as the port is only allowed to charge them for the costs they incur.

“Therefore if they received ARPA funding, they don’t have those costs, they therefore can’t pass those costs on the airlines,” Christian said.

He said CPA characterizes that as giving discounts.

As to how much the passengers benefit, Christian said it’s hard to say because they still record everything on their books. “So it’s generally just a bookkeeping issue,” he pointed out.

King-Hinds disagreed with the characterization that this is not a discount. She said they are one of the very few airports in the United States that took those ARPA funds and passed it on as savings to their partners.

“Because we saw that we all needed to get through the pandemic together,” King-Hinds said.

King-Hinds said the record is clear: Star Marianas Air didn’t pass on any savings to the consumers and the record is clear that the company owes CPA over \$4.7 million in aviation fees, miscellaneous fees, airline settlement, and interest, as of Jan. 31, 2023.

The CPA chair said their job is basically is to keep the airports open.

She said they hope that they all try to work together to figure out how to find alternatives sources of funding or support Marianas Visitors Authority in their efforts to bring back the tourist markets.

“We need the airport for airlines to land and the more airlines that land, the cheaper it is for everybody who is doing business with CPA. It’s just basic economics,” King-Hinds pointed out.

permit issued to Atkins Kroll and asked that the high court take judicial notice of various documents that the Zoning board considered before issuing the conditional use permit.

However, because the dismissal has been vacated and the case has been remanded back to Superior Court for review, the motions are considered moot.

LOWER

From Page 1

Committee had originally called to talk about the CNMI’s interisland travel issues.

One of the witnesses called to testify on the CNMI’s air transportation issues, CPA executive director Christopher Tenorio, told committee members CPA’s revenue has drastically decreased in the past few years. He said nearly all of CPA’s airline partners suspended their flights to Saipan at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thankfully, CPA received over \$2 million in ARPA funds back in 2021 to help them weather out the storm, he said. Unfortunately, those funds have been stretched as far as possible, but CPA still faces a massive decline in revenue, with the CNMI still trying to regain its economical footing.

CPA fears that, if no subsidy can be

provided for CPA to continue operations, it may have to soon increase its airport rates just to get by, possibly risking the loss of airline partners.

“It is also crucial to note that CPA’s revenue has drastically decreased beginning with Super Typhoon Yutu and then later amplified by COVID-19’s impact on the tourism industry. Further, CPA is stuck between a rock and a hard place when it comes to taking on additional airport expenses. This is because taking on additional airport expenses will lead to an increase in airport rates, which could potentially drive away interested airline partners and further compound the problem,” said Tenorio.

On top of the drop in revenue, CPA also faces other dilemmas such as the ongoing litigation between the agency and interisland air service provider Star Marianas Airlines.

He said the commuter airline currently owes CPA over \$4 million,

ANAKS

From Page 2

The case has now gone back to the Superior Court for its review of the Zoning board’s decision.

Aside from its request to overturn the Superior Court’s dismissal, Anaks also moved to stay the effective date of the conditional use

Yumul introduces bill to repeal FY 2023 budget law

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a bill that seeks to repeal and re-enact Public Law 22-22, or the fiscal year 2023 appropriations and budget law.

Yumul, who chairs the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, pre-filed House Bill 23-31 in order to make revised appropriations of local funds for the operations and activities of the CNMI government, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs.

Yumul said this bill will provide revised budget authority for the government corporations for fiscal year 2023, starting from March 31, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2023.

The bill would also provide Gov. Arnold I. Palacios with up to 50% reprogramming authority for the departments, agencies, and offices of the Executive Branch. This authority shall not apply to funds appropriated to the Legislature or Judiciary, as well as to funds appropriated by the legislative delegations.

Palacios recently stated that he is the only governor in the CNMI who requested the least reprogramming authority at 50%.

Yumul is expected to formally introduce the legislation, cited as the Revised Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2023, during a House session this Friday at 3pm.

The House unanimously approved Monday House Concurrent Resolution 23-1 that basically agrees with the projected \$116.19 million total local revenue and resources of the CNMI government that Palacios had identified as available for appropriation, to reflect proposed revisions to the fiscal year 2023 budget law, Public Law 22-22.

According to H.B. 23-31, pursuant to Concurrent Resolution 23-1, the total estimated gross budgetary resources for fiscal year 2023 is \$164,198,068. Minus earmarks and transfers out in the total amount of \$48,004,271, the total local revenue and resources available for appropriation in fiscal year 2023 is \$116,193,797.

Adding the \$5,407,897 budget for the Department of Public Lands, the grand total local revenue and resources available for appropriation is \$121,601,694.

With respect to the current fiscal year 2023, former governor Ralph DLG Torres had identified projected resources in the amount of \$150,415,492 for the CNMI government and related agencies in fiscal year 2023. This resulted in

the enactment of Public Law 22-22, the Appropriations Act of 2023, which had a total amount identified for appropriations at \$104,374,369.

Palacios has now determined that the amount of \$104.37 million should be revised.

The co-sponsors of Yumul's bill are Reps. Vincent S. Aldan

(Ind-Saipan), Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), Roman C. Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Joel C. Camacho (Ind-

Saipan), Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan), Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan), Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan), Marissa R. Flores (Ind-Saipan), Julie

M. Ogo (Ind-Rota), John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and Denita K. Yangetmai (D-Saipan).

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Japanese veterinarian highlights animal care in Rotary visit



Members of the Rotary Club of Saipan pose with Dr. Taisho Watanabe and CNMI Office of the Mayor's Dog Control Program manager Marvin Pangelinan after their presentation at the club's weekly luncheon last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

By CHRYSTAL MARINO

chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
Correspondent

Visiting Japanese veterinarian Dr. Taisho Watanabe brought his message about the importance of proper animal care to the Rotary Club of Saipan last Tuesday at the club's weekly luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Watanabe, who operates several animal medical centers in Japan, said the issue of animal control concerns had gotten his attention and he decided to revisit Saipan and take a look himself. He has already had several meetings with Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho and Dog Control Program manager Martin Pangelinan Jr. of the Saipan Mayor's Office about this subject.

Watanabe said that Saipan is indeed a beautiful island, but the abundance of strays can be dangerous to some, with the possibility of someone getting hurt or bitten. He said one of the reasons for his visit is to try and offer some advice.

Joining Watanabe in his presentation last Tuesday was Pangelinan, who shared that it was Camacho who had introduced him to Watanabe and they have had meetings to discuss animal control and care in the CNMI.

Soon after meeting Watanabe, Pangelinan was able to visit Japan to see the four veterinary hospitals that Watanabe operates. Pangelinan shared a slideshow of the state-of-the-art animal facilities under Watanabe and the Veterinary Center of Japan, which not only include medical centers, but also pet burial services and cemeteries. Each function with high-end technology and provides services especially designed for pet care.

Pangelinan mentioned a "partnership" with Watanabe, but did not clarify if the partnership is still an idea or already an indefinite plan. Watanabe didn't mention it either, but said briefly that he was willing to partner with the Office of the Mayor in the future to give animal advice or some type of animal care training.

House passes anti-vandalism bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed last week a bill that seeks to amend the punishment for the crime of vandalism to include the option of imprisonment.

With all 19 House members present voted "yes," House Bill 23-14, House Substitute 1, House Draft 1, now goes to the Senate for action.

Before the voting, Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), who is the author of the bill, offered a floor amendment to insert the word "knowingly" in line six on page 2. With the amendment the line should read: (a) It shall be unlawful for any person and/o or persons, to knowingly vandalize any public or private property.

Flores, who chairs the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, said the reason for the amendment is they did get a comment from the Public Defender's Office and one of the comments was that the bill did not clearly define an individual who may be suffering from any mental disorder.

"So we did put in that clause, put it 'knowingly' so

there is some sort of measurement," she said.

House members approved the floor amendment and subsequently passed the bill.

Flores stated in the bill that the Legislature created the offense of vandalism in Public Law 21-18 to address the proliferation of crimes involving the destruction of public and private property. Previously, that crime was addressed as criminal mischief, which included the optional punishment of confinement. Flores said the new law left out punishment ranges for confinement.

Without the option of confinement, vandalism has increased, she said.

Under the bill, if the pecuniary loss from the property vandalized is valued at \$20,000 or more, or at least \$2,500 but less than \$20,000, the person in violation shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than 10 years and five years, respectively.

If the pecuniary loss from the property vandalized is valued at less than \$2,500, or is not subject to value, the imprisonment is not more than one year.

In addition, there will be fines and/or community service penalties.



Flores

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Saipan public invited to view USCG helicopter, meet the crew

SANTA RITA, Guam—A U.S. Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point and crew are scheduled to hold a search and rescue demonstration in Saipan on March 20, 2023.

Residents can expect to see and hear the aircraft in the Saipan area from March 19 to March 20. The aircrew is forward deployed to Guam from Hawaii for six weeks serving the people of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands while working with U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam to assess the feasibility of more frequent operations in the islands.

■ **WHO:** Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Cinque, aircraft commander, and the aircrew

■ **WHAT:** Search and Rescue Demonstration

■ **WHEN:** Monday, March 20, 2023, 9am to 9:30am

■ **WHERE:** Outer Cove Dock, visitor parking at Smiling Cove Marina

The MH-65 Dolphin helicopter is a short-range recovery helicopter used by the crew to perform search and rescue, law enforcement, and homeland security missions. It is certified for all-weather and night-time operations, except for icy conditions, and it routinely deploys aboard certified cutters providing manned airborne surveillance and interdiction capabilities. The airframe was first added to the Coast Guard inventory in 1984 and has undergone several upgrades.

In recent memory, these operations mark the first deployment of a Dolphin helicopter crew to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The District 14 assigned aircraft are primarily used as a search and rescue platform in the Main Hawaiian Islands and as an

augment aboard major cutters on deployment to extend their range for search and rescue, law enforcement, and surveillance while at sea. The aircrews frequently participate in community relations events and subject matter exchanges to build awareness for service capabilities and encourage interest in the aviation career field.

"The Dolphin here now is not a replacement for any other agency but another resource to help us accomplish our missions and serve the people of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands," said Simmons. "They are currently here on a six-week deployment as we field test the feasibility of their operating here in a greater capacity. This approach is an innovative way to employ aircrews in the Indo-Pacific for increased presence and value. We hope to get them out here more frequently and are pleased to have the support of the Air Station and the District 14 command."

The operations have precedent. In 1947 the service established a Coast Guard air detachment consisting of one PBV-6A Catalina—a flying boat and amphibious aircraft—and crew at the Naval Air Station, Agaña, Guam, to provide aerial logistics support for LORAN stations in the southern Marianas and Western Caroline Islands. The Catalina was well suited to operations in the islands, able to haul cargo but also land in the shallow lagoons and offload to skiffs. The Coast Guard air detachment, by then called an air station, was disestablished in 1972 as LORAN missions changed and commercial air services were more readily available.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam comprises nearly 300 personnel throughout the response, prevention, administrative,



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR
An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew deployed to Guam from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point in Hawaii flies patterns to assess winds and terrain before conducting rescue hoist training at Sella Bay Overlook in Guam on March 8, 2023.

and logistics departments supporting the Joint Rescue Sub-Center, three fast response cutters, a small boat station, and a marine safety detachment in Saipan. The unit provides a significant portion of the U.S. Coast Guard's enduring regional presence serving the people of the Pacific by conducting our six major operational mission programs: maritime law enforcement, maritime response, maritime prevention, marine transportation system management, maritime security operations, and defense operations. (USCG)

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Tsunami town hall goes to Hopwood

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Pacific Coastal Research and Planning is holding a town hall meeting today, March 16, at the Hopwood Jr. High School, from 5pm until 7pm, to seek public input in developing the CNMI's initial tsunami evacuation plans, assembly places, and routes.

The main discussion of this meeting will be focused on what areas are actually threatened by a tsunami, where one can find a space to assemble during an evacuation, and evaluate and discuss the best routes and evacuation in such assembly areas. HSEM and the PCRCP are seeking the

community's inputs and expertise on not only planning but also to add if there needs to be any revision made to the current evacuation zone maps.

The teams have already visited Achugao, Garapan, Supe, and Chalan Kanoa.

To see the current and monthly updated tsunami evacuation zones for each island in the NMI go to <https://arcg.is/H0P48>.

For more information on the community-based event, or to make special inquiries you may email Mario Kaipat at Mario.Kaipat@cnmihsem.gov.mp or contact Robbie Greene at Robbie.Greene@PacificCRP.org. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Soft-on-crime policies hit hard wall of political reality

Perhaps the rarest thing in politics is wide bipartisan agreement on a contentious political issue. Just look at congressional inaction on immigration, entitlement reform, energy prices and deficit reduction.

Until recently, crime would have been on that list as well. But on Wednesday, a majority of Democratic senators joined with Republicans to overturn a crime bill passed by Washington, D.C., officials. Congress can overturn bills passed by the local D.C. Council. The Senate is almost an even split, but the vote was a blowout—passing 81 to 14. The House had previously voted to overturn it, but the margin was much closer.

In between those votes, President Joe Biden announced that he wouldn't veto the bill. That was a flip-flop. His administration previously said it opposed the bill, citing his respect for the autonomy of local officials.

Some criminal justice reform efforts over recent years have been needed. But hard-left Democrats are hopelessly out of touch with their “defund the police” rhetoric and coddling of repeat offenders. Proposals like this go far beyond what is prudent. It appears Biden realized as much and switched his position.

It's easy to understand why Democrats would have political worries about supporting this bill. It abolished mandatory minimum sentences from most crimes. That included carjacking, robbery and burglary. Videos of D.C. carjackings have gone viral in recent years. In a 2021 video, two teen girls ended up killing an Uber Eats driver and Pakistan immigrant as he hung on to the side of his car. D.C. officials didn't get rid of the minimum sentence for first-degree murder. But they did reduce the maximum sentence from life in prison to 51 years.

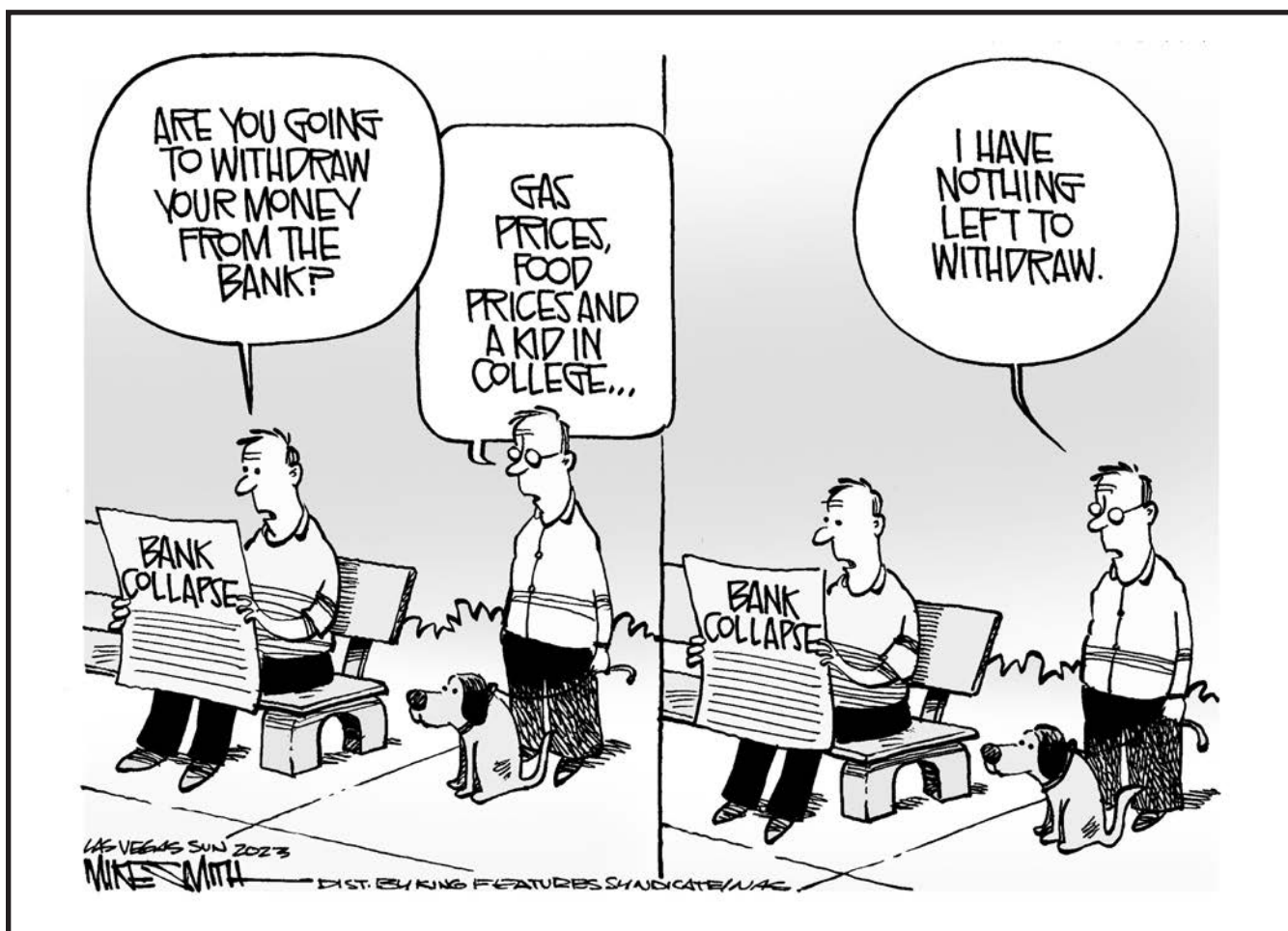
Under the proposal, any convicted criminal could ask for resentencing after serving 20 years of their sentence if a judge approved. D.C. already has a version of this for criminals who committed their crime when they were under 25.

This proposal was so extreme that D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, a Democrat, vetoed it. She won't be mistaken for a conservative anytime soon. The D.C. Council then overrode her veto, setting up the congressional showdown.

Crime isn't political popular, and politicians that allow it to fester tend not to last long in public office. Just look at Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot's third-place finish in the recent mayoral race. New York City Mayor Eric Adams called her loss a “warning sign or the country.” He urged his fellow Democrats to pay attention on this issue, noting the obvious, “People want to be safe.”

Yes, they do. Public safety must trump progressive preening.

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Learning to recognize political rhetoric

When I think about the tactics of the Democrat and Republican parties, I am reminded of lyrics from the Buffalo Springfield song 50 years ago:

“There’s something happening here

What it is ain’t exactly clear”

Nobody’s right if everybody’s wrong.

Unfortunately, what is happening in politics in America is all too clear and both sides are wrong as they feed into the political circus instead of focusing on healthy governance.

This all would be funny if not for the serious implications. The dysfunction is clearly manifested by red meat rhetoric that politicians throw out to their base to score political points, rather than attempting to govern. It is so much easier for them to make statements that generate a strong emotional response from voters instead of intelligently debating the difficult choices our country faces.

And unfortunately this ploy works!

I watch with amazement as demagoguery on both sides continues unimpeded and wonder how this can be until I realize that the \$14 billion spent in the 2020 election cycle just feeds more division, disinformation and dysfunction. Our democracy is in crisis and the promise of healthy self-governance seems further and further away.

If you watch Fox News you’ll be inundated with pundits blasting intellectual elites, the deep state, socialist democrats, illegal aliens and, of course, cancel culture. Switch channels on the same day and tune in to MSNBC and you would think that you are living in a completely different universe. Terms such as corruption on Wall Street, big oil, police brutality and crony capitalism are tossed around without any thought to providing a deeper analysis.

Dietram Schuele, a communications professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, described the rhetoric aptly when he said:

“Every tribe has its own words, basically, and it becomes more and more difficult to have conversations across tribal fault lines if we can’t even agree on the terminology.”

Unfortunately, the nuances in language are a part of the science of politics. Both parties spend millions of dollars gathering focus groups to learn which messaging and language engages them emotionally. To cite two examples, the term “exploring for energy” is a much gentler term than “drilling for oil” and might appeal to Democrats more, while the term “illegal aliens” arouses emotions different from “undocumented workers” and thus more likely to be used by Republicans. Similarly the terms “death tax” versus “estate tax” arouses different emotions ... and the list goes on and on.

The phenomenon of code words is especially apparent with the new Republican code word du jour to incite emotions and

By **DAVID L. NEVINS**

The Fulcrum

David L. Nevins is co-publisher of The Fulcrum and co-founder and board chairman of the Bridge Alliance Education Fund.



cater to their base. The term “woke” is used to disparage and dismiss anything related to a civil discussion on justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.

Merriam-Webster in 2017 defined “woke” as: “aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice).”

Rather than discuss the important nuances of diversity and inclusion with the desire to create some level of social cohesion, let’s just coin a phrase that appeals to our tribe. Let everything we don’t like be “woke.” It is now creeping into the lexicon amid the backlash against ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) as corporations apply non-financial factors as a part of their analysis in determining their investment strategies and growth opportunities. If a company chooses to consider climate change, lack of diversity or other social issues as part of their investment strategy, let’s not have a serious debate; instead let’s just appeal to the emotions of the electorate and call it “woke capitalism.”

In this context, the Senate recently voted to overturn a Labor Department rule that permits fiduciary retirement fund managers to consider environmental, social and corporate governance, or ESG, factors in their investment decisions. Rather than debate the merits of the issue, Republicans repeat the mantra of their new code word “woke capitalism.” This moniker wipes away concern about the planet we leave for our descendants as irrelevant to a return on investment.

Of course, as politicians try to reduce complex issues to simple sound bites, rationality still prevails. Despite the ESG backlash, more and more companies are taking an ESG approach to investing and doing quite well financially. Barron’s recently published the Top 100 U.S. Sustainable Companies using the methodology of ESG explaining the variety of metrics used.

As responsible citizens, it is imperative to understand the tactics used by politicians and be on the alert for the code words they use to excite and enrage us. It is our responsibility to see through this charade. If more and more of us stop listening to the rhetoric, they might change how they talk to us to create meaningful change.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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‘Everything Everywhere All at Once’ saved my relationship with my mom

By **GRACE PARK**
Los Angeles Times

After 10 years of hiding my queer identity, I finally came out to my mom at the kitchen table of my childhood home in Irvine, California. Tearfully reading a letter full of “I know’s” and “I’m sorry’s,” I looked up, expecting her to disown me. Instead, my mom looked at me with pleading eyes, asking: “Does that mean you’re not going to move back home?”

What did my geo location have to do with my sexuality? I simply could not fathom her perplexing response—until I watched “Everything Everywhere All at Once.” At the climax of the multiverse epic, Michelle Yeoh’s character, Evelyn, catches up with her daughter Joy, where the psychedelic journey began—in the parking lot of their humble laundromat.

Naturally, I saw myself in Joy as she begs her mom: “Just let me... go.” I had fled as far as I could since turning 18—to college across the country, to working abroad afterward, and to graduate school on the East Coast. But like Joy, I couldn’t escape my mother’s reach, nor her love, no matter how far I traveled. When Evelyn tearfully declares to Joy, “No matter what, I still want to be here with you,” I finally understood my mom—perhaps for the first time.

No matter who I was or whom I loved, no matter what other universes might exist, my mother, like Evelyn, wanted only one thing—to be with her child, to be close to family and to be home together.

The full force of that realization hit me like a train. While I had spent the better part of the last decade distancing myself from my family—to spare them the pain of becoming socially ostracized because of my sexual identity—I was really inflicting on them the pain of a distant family and of broken relationships.

The film captured exactly what my mom and I couldn’t previously communicate to each other. I began to wonder if watching

‘No matter who I was or whom I loved...my mother...wanted only one thing—to be with her child...’

queer movies together could bridge the gap between my unapologetic queerness and my mom’s homophobic apprehension.

I called my mom as I left the theater. Since then, my family has embarked on a virtual queer-movie marathon that changed our relationship forever.

We have now watched “Bohemian Rhapsody” and “Rocketman” (my mom loves biopics) and even the shockingly sexual Korean lesbian thriller “The Handmaiden” together. After each viewing, my mom peppers me with questions about love and sexuality we used to be embarrassed to broach. As she grows

more comfortable with our movie nights and the possibility of my queer life lived happily ever after, I am reminded that we are a species that fears what we do not understand.

Not only do queer movies depict the joyous continuum of queer love, but they also open the conversation to the things that can be the most difficult for parents of queer children to talk about.

Our movie nights have allowed me and my family to talk about sexuality outside the intensely personal context of me and my personal relationships. Instead of asking me why I wouldn’t just marry a man to fit into society, queer movies like “Bohemian Rhapsody” pushed my parents to consider why Freddie Mercury couldn’t just marry Mary Austin. It gave me a reprieve from defending my way of life and gave my parents the answers they needed.

Watching queer movies isn’t the perfect antidote for all families—especially as the burden of emotional labor often falls on the queer family member. Just ask Joy, who shouts to her mom, “That’s great. You’re figuring your s- — out... but I’m tired.”

It’s true, watching Taron Egerton and Richard Madden have at it in “Rocketman” with my parents in awkward silence was perhaps not a panacea for difficult parental relationships. But the openness, communication and connection with my parents that came afterward was still worth it.

In the end, representation isn’t just a descriptive notion—it’s a transcendent one. I didn’t just see myself reflected on screen in “Everything Everywhere All at Once”—I saw my mother’s love amplified across the multiverse. Ten years ago, I couldn’t even dream of a universe in which my mom accepted me for all of me. Today, I live in it every day.

Grace Park is a Southern California native. They previously served in the U.S. Army and currently attend the Harvard Kennedy School of Government where they study public policy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Healthcare for animals

Our CNMI animals are an important part of our island economy in dollars, mental health benefits, and food sources. So why don’t we do a better job to support our animals with healthcare to ensure that they live to their fullest potential for providing the benefits that can help add to the cash flow and wealth of our islands? Our ranchers know how much the loss of a cow, calf, hog, or piglet cost in lost income. Now goats are also becoming assets families rely on. These animals are economically important. If they become sick or get injured and die, what is the real cost to our economy? Who do we have that can fix them?

It is well documented by very smart people, and I believe all of us, that pets like dogs, cats, and rabbits can have very positive impacts on the mental health of youngsters and the man’amko to improve and extend their lives. Most people can see the affection that kids and adults have for their pets. Why do we deny pets healthcare when it is so easy to provide!? It only takes a little money! Suicide rates can be lowered. Post-traumatic syndrome and medical recovery rates are increased when pets are called on! What value does this fact

have. Can we afford not to provide this help? God gave us our animals for a reason; why don’t we take better care of them?

It seems that every family in the CNMI has at least one dog to provide security. How much is this protection worth? A dog’s bark may be worth a life. We need to protect our dogs’ health just as they protect us; it is a two-way street.

There is recently talk about building a slaughterhouse on Tinian to process meat for our local markets, including the military. The quality of the meat must be 100% safe. We need people who can do this for us!

To accomplish all of the things I mentioned above, we need professionally trained people like veterinarians and others to protect our animals and the humans that live here.

How can we get these things done ASAP? Our government must help by providing leadership! We need money, and we have it in our current cash flow! Several years ago the CNMI ran out of money. What to do? Nobody likes taxes, but what is reasonable? We currently pay a tax of only \$0.15 per gallon of gasoline, yet many countries in the world are paying a tax of over \$1 per gallon. Question, is our gas-

oline tax rate reasonable in view of our needs as a society? I say no, because we could raise our tax rate to \$0.25 to \$0.30 per gallon and that would cover most of the money needed to pay for the healthcare needed. A Japanese veterinarian that runs four state-of-the-art veterinary hospitals in Japan today estimated the CNMI government would need to spend \$1.5 million to build one hospital. To be fair this is probably not enough for one veterinary hospital here in the CNMI. The numbers from my original calculations are now old and need to be looked at again, but when I did the original work, the proposal brought in \$3 to \$4 million per year, depending on the gasoline consumed.

Let’s do something! I would like to see a professional accountant take a serious look at this proposal to see if we can generate the money needed to address our animal healthcare problems. The CNMI government needs to provide this support to its people! Do it now!

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

Political lessons learned

We are now seeing and learning about the horrific fraud that was played on voters in the U.S. mainland and in the CNMI. The truth is finally coming to the light, as we say, about Fox that shouldn’t even be considered a real news network, given the lies they have been spreading and knowing they were lies! It’s a sad time for the many American voters who believed and fell for the lies that Fox was spreading about the election and the Jan. 6, insurrection. I truly feel sorry for the Fox viewers who were caught up in the lies and coverup but I’m also ecstatic that the truth has finally found the light to shine on Fox for all to see. I never watched Fox because I knew they were a bunch of manipulators of the truth and it only took common sense to see it, but the problem was that too many Americans didn’t want to hear the truth because it’s like my friend Fabian says: “They can’t handle the truth.” If you are still watching Fox after the recent revelations then we

can only pray that you will one day see the light and find your way to the real news network. I hope Fox viewers learned their lesson as America knows the truth.

The bigger problem is there was an entire political party (the GOP in the U.S. mainland and in the CNMI) was endorsing Trump and the Fox lies, which greatly contributed to voters being fooled and manipulated all in the name of one person, Trump. Don’t forget, Ralph was the first governor to go public for Trump and rushed to Washington to take a picture with him, but in the end Trump didn’t do anything to help the CNMI and we now know about all of the alleged crimes that Ralph committed that harmed the CNMI, yet he fooled over 6,000 voters.






I tried to warn readers about how our GOP was no different from the GOP in the mainland and I’m sure many of our citizens are now seeing the light too, which is why the GOP’s

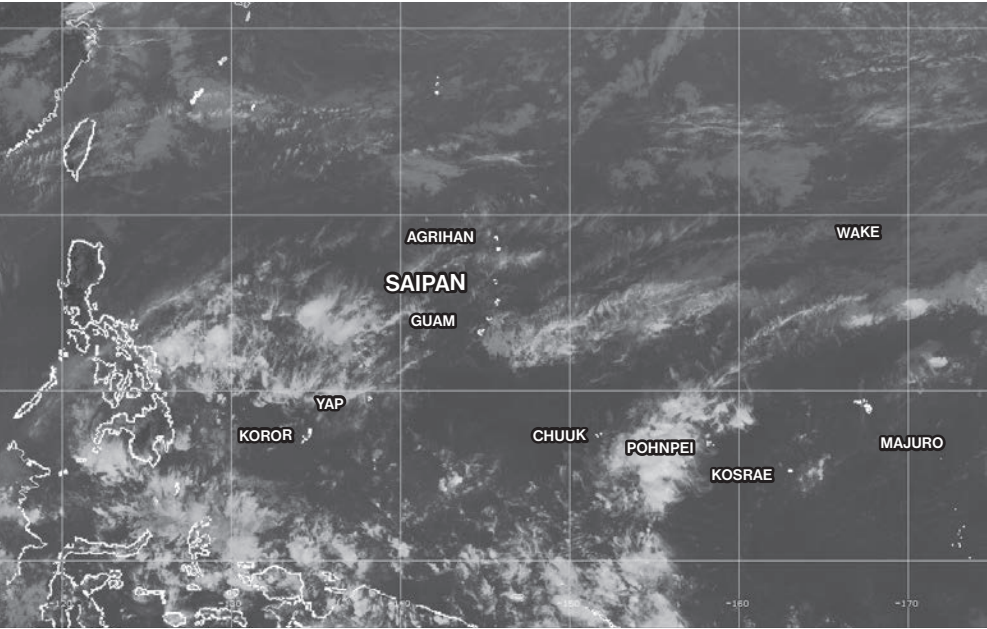
reign over the CNMI is over, as the majority of voters did see the light and chose better! It’s just sad the people who are suffering the most on Tinian and Luta.

Maybe it’s true what P.T. Barnum said about a sucker being born every minute, as we had over 6,000 voters who were literally suckered. I just pray they have seen the light and learned their lesson. I just hope my critics and naysayers now realize they need to give my admonitions much more weight and consideration, especially if you’ve learned your lesson, because you know to stop believing the hype, deflecting, gaslighting and lies and be smarter in voting for the truly honorable, humble and dedicated-to-the-people candidates so we don’t ever have to experience another Trump or Ralph in our future.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Partly sunny		Mostly sunny	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:07 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows scattered showers developing near and moving into the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, which are composed mainly of an east-northeast swell, with wind waves mixed in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:21 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:27 AM	12:48 PM	-
Friday	2:29 AM	1:53 PM	-
Saturday	3:27 AM	2:58 PM	-
Sunday	4:21 AM	4:03 PM	-
Monday	5:10 AM	5:04 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy/Wind	64° / 57°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	57° / 35°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	76° / 68°	
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 73°	
London	Sunny	43° / 34°	
Los Angeles	Showers	60° / 50°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 76°	
Melbourne	Rain	66° / 55°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 71°	
New York	Partly Cloudy/Wind	45° / 33°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	69° / 51°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	58° / 44°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 31°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	69° / 52°	
Washington, DC	Sunny/Wind	51° / 33°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:12 AM	High Tide	1.57	
8:40 AM	Low Tide	1.35	
1:08 PM	High Tide	1.63	
9:18 PM	Low Tide	-0.22	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	4, 7	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7	8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7
3:00 P.M.	3:40 P.M.	6,7	4:00 P.M.	4:40 P.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7
5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	6,7	6:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	6,7
ROTA TO GUAM			GUAM TO ROTA		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun				
				3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

Create memories and keep it too at Good Photo Shop

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One, two, three, cheese! You are sure to keep cheesin' at this new shop's photo booths.

The Good Photo Shop at the newly renovated Town House Shopping Center in Chalan Kanoa next to the Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell held its grand opening last Saturday and is the new craze in town for youngins' and adults alike.

Throughout the grand opening day, countless groups of families and friends stormed their way to the shop to avail of the promotion from their photo booth: One free coupon which expires April 30 and other freebies such as pens.

Open from 11am to 7pm daily and your choice of two prints is \$5, and there is an additional \$5 for an additional pair of prints, make your way to the only place that boasts photo booths on Saipan.

Choose different filters and frames, then the photos will print in just a couple of minutes and voila! You have made memories which you can keep

for a lifetime.

You can also download a digital copy on your phone via a QR code which you can show off the photos of you and your friends or family with cute and funky wigs, sunglasses, and other props that are available for free.

Another feature of the photo booth is a time lapse option where you can see yourself taking photos in fast forward which you can also download onto your phone to keep and share.

This shop started from the idea of husband-and-wife duo Jason Ryu and Hyeeyeon Cha. They are professional photographers from South Korea who have resided on Saipan for the past couple of years and wanted to bring something novel to the island.

Along with the fun-filled photo booth, they also do professional photo shoots and print photos on acrylic frames, wood frames, phone cases, commemorative frames, and clocks.

Ryu said on opening this business, "there's no photo booths on Saipan, so we wanted to bring it here. In Korea, it's very popular so we decided to open this business. We do family



LEIGH GASES
The Good Photo Shop owners Jason Ryu, right, and wife Hyeeyeon Cha in front of their shop during their grand opening last Saturday at the Town House Shopping Center in Chalan Kanoa.

photos, baby photos, and others and we are good at photoshop so we can erase any flaws you'd like to take out in your photos."

A group of friends were seen on the grand opening day enjoy-

ing the photo booths, with one teen named Colyn Yumul saying that it's a great place to hang out with friends, and that people finally have something new to do on the island.

Make memories now and ask assistance from the shop's friendly staff, Zandro Mamauag Jr., Abigail Amog, or the shop's owners.

Good Photo Shop's prices vary but you can contact them at (670) 288-5620, (670) 286-5620, (670) 286-0475, or email goodphotoshop0203@gmail.com. You can also check out their Instagram page at goodphotoshop0203 to take a look at what they offer.



LEIGH GASES

Along with two photo booths, the Good Photo Shop also does professional photoshoots and prints photos on acrylic frames, wood frames, phone cases, commemorative frames, and clocks.



LEIGH GASES

Two photo booths are available in the Good Photo Shop at the Town House Shopping Center in Chalan Kanoa in which for just \$5, you receive two print outs of your photos and you can also download a digital copy via a QR code.

Fed criticized for missing red flags before bank collapse

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve is facing stinging criticism for missing what observers say were clear signs that Silicon Valley Bank was at high risk of collapsing into the second-largest bank failure in U.S. history.

Critics point to many red flags surrounding the bank, including its rapid growth since the pandemic, its unusually high level of uninsured deposits and its many investments in long-term government bonds and mortgage-backed securities, which tumbled in value as interest rates rose.

"It's inexplicable how the Federal Reserve supervisors

could not see this clear threat to the safety and soundness of banks and to financial stability," said Dennis Kelleher, chief executive of Better Markets, an advocacy group.

Wall Street traders and industry analysts "have been publicly screaming about these very issues for many, many months going back to last fall," Kelleher added.

The Fed was the primary federal supervisor of the bank based in Santa Clara, California, that failed last week. The bank was also overseen by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation.

Now the consequences of

the fall of Silicon Valley Bank, along with New York-based Signature Bank, which failed over the weekend, are complicating the Fed's upcoming decisions about how high to raise its benchmark interest rate in the fight against chronically high inflation.

Many economists say the central bank would likely have raised rates by an aggressive half-point next week at its meeting, which would amount to a step up in its inflation fight, after the Fed implemented a quarter-point hike in February. Its rate currently stands at about 4.6%, the highest level in 15 years.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 - 050

Opening Date: March 6, 2023

Closing Date: March 17, 2023

POSITION TITLE: Fiscal Assistant/Dispatch Operator
DEPARTMENT: COA/Customer Service/Call Center
LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY: \$16,742.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT: Not Contracted
POSITION(S): One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Monitors radio communications in order to dispatch crews for troubleshooting and for related service calls.
- Receives incoming calls reporting complaints or issues related to water, sewer or power utilities; provides general customer service; and routes service calls to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and maintains file systems and pertinent records.
- Performs data entry; maintains and updates logs and dispatch related documentation.
- Prepares and maintains requisitions.
- Follows up with customers to provide basic information, status updates, and to verify customer's experience and any remaining service needs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and up to 1 year of customer service experience.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic recordkeeping principles; Radio communications equipment procedures; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Monitoring and utilizing radio communications and equipment; receiving and routing service or problem calls; entering, updating and maintaining data; organizing and maintaining filing systems and records; preparing and updating logs, records and related documentation; performing follow up calls to ensure adequate service provision; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

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Nation

US says Russian warplane hits American drone over Black Sea

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A Russian fighter jet struck the propeller of a U.S. surveillance drone over the Black Sea on Tuesday in a “brazen violation of international law,” causing American forces to bring down the unmanned aerial vehicle, the U.S. said.

But Russia insisted its warplanes didn’t hit the MQ-9 Reaper drone. Instead, it said the drone maneuvered sharply and crashed into the water following an encounter with Russian fighter jets that had been scrambled to intercept it near Crimea.

The incident, which added to Russia-U.S. tensions over Moscow’s war in Ukraine, appeared to be the first time since the height of the Cold War that a U.S. aircraft was brought down after an encounter with a Russian warplane.

U.S. President Joe Biden was briefed on the incident by national security adviser Jake Sullivan, according to White House national security spokesman John Kirby. He added that U.S. State Department officials would be speaking directly with their Russian counterparts and “expressing our concerns over this unsafe and unprofessional intercept.”

State Department spokesman Ned Price called it a “brazen violation of international law.” He said the U.S. summoned the Russian ambassador to lodge a protest and the U.S. ambassador to Russia, Lynne Tracy, has made similar representations in Moscow.

Cohen testifies before grand jury in Trump hush money probe

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump’s former lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen testified Monday before a Manhattan grand jury investigating hush money payments made on the former president’s behalf.

A Trump loyalist turned adversary, Cohen spent around three hours answering questions in the secret proceeding. He is scheduled to return again for more testimony Wednesday, his lawyer said as the pair emerged from the courthouse.

“Michael has spent a long and productive afternoon answering all questions, all facts, and completely responsive,” said Cohen’s lawyer, Lanny Davis.

The testimony comes at a critical time, as the Manhattan district attorney’s office weighs whether to seek charges against Trump over payments made during his 2016 campaign to two women who alleged affairs or sex-



AP
A U.S. MQ-9 drone is on display during an air show at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018.

The U.S. European Command said two Russian Su-27 fighter jets intercepted the drone while it was operating within international airspace. It said one of the Russian fighters struck the propeller of the MQ-9, causing U.S. forces to bring it down in international waters.

Prior to that, the Su-27s dumped fuel on the MQ-9 and flew in front of it several times in “a reckless, environmentally unsound and unprofessional manner,” the U.S. European Command said in a statement from Stuttgart, Germany.

“This incident demonstrates a lack of competence in addition to being unsafe and unprofessional,” it added.

U.S. Air Force Gen. James B. Hecker, commander of U.S. Air Forces Europe and Air Forces Africa, said the MQ-9 aircraft was “conduct-

ing routine operations in international airspace when it was intercepted and hit by a Russian aircraft, resulting in a crash and complete loss of the MQ-9.” He added that “in fact, this unsafe and unprofessional act by the Russians nearly caused both aircraft to crash.”

Pentagon spokesman Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said the incident occurred at 7:03 a.m. Central European time (0603 GMT; 2:03 a.m. EST) over international waters, and well clear of Ukraine, after the Russian jets had flown in the vicinity of the drone for 30 to 40 minutes. There did not appear to be any communications between the aircraft before the collision, Ryder added.

The MQ-9 includes a ground control station and satellite equipment and has

ual encounters with him.

Before entering the courthouse for the session, Cohen, who orchestrated those payoffs, said his goal was simply “to tell the truth,” dismissing a suggestion that he might be motivated by a desire to see Trump behind bars.

“This is not revenge,” he said. “This is all about accountability. He needs to be held accountable for his dirty deeds.”

Trump denies being involved with either of the women, the porn actor Stormy Daniels and model Karen McDougal.

Cohen has given prosecutors evidence, including voice recordings of conversations he had with a lawyer for one of the women, as well as emails and text messages. He also has recordings of a conversation in which he and Trump spoke about an arrangement to pay the other woman through the supermarket tabloid the National Enquirer.

Prosecutors appear to be looking at whether Trump committed crimes in how the payments were made or how they were accounted for internally at Trump’s company, the Trump Organization.

One possible charge would be falsifying business records, a misdemeanor unless prosecutors could prove it was done to conceal another crime. No former U.S. president has ever been charged with a crime.

Appearing Monday on ABC’s “Good Morning America,” Trump lawyer Joseph Tacopina said it is unlikely the former president will accept an invitation, extended by prosecutors last week, to testify before the grand jury.

“We have no plans on participating in this proceeding,” Tacopina said. “It’s a decision that needs to be made still. There’s been no deadline set, so we’ll wait and see.”

a 66-foot (20-meter) wingspan. It is capable of carrying munitions, but Ryder would not say whether it was armed. The U.S. had not recovered the crashed drone, U.S. Air Forces-Europe said in a statement, and neither had Russia, Ryder said.

He said it appeared the Russian aircraft also was damaged in the collision, but the U.S. has confirmed that it did land, although Ryder would not say where.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said the U.S. drone was

flying over the Black Sea near Crimea and intruded in an area that was declared off limits by Russia as part of what it calls its “special military operation” in Ukraine, causing the military to scramble fighters to intercept it.

“As a result of a sharp maneuver, the MQ-9 drone went into unguided flight with a loss of altitude and crashed into the water,” it said. “The Russian fighters didn’t use their weapons, didn’t come into contact with the unmanned aerial vehicle, and they safely returned

to their base.”

The Russian ambassador to Washington, Anatoly Antonov, described the U.S. drone flight as a “provocation” and argued that there was no reason for U.S. military aircraft and warships to be near Russia’s borders.

Speaking after meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Europe Karen Donfried, Antonov insisted that the Russian warplanes didn’t hit the American drone or fire their weapons. He added that Moscow wants “pragmatic” ties with Washington, adding that “we don’t want any confrontation between the U.S. and Russia.”

Moscow has repeatedly voiced concern about U.S. intelligence flights close to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014 and illegally annexed. The Kremlin has charged that by providing weapons to Ukraine and sharing intelligence information with Kyiv, the U.S. and its allies have effectively become engaged in the conflict.

Kirby emphasized that the incident wouldn’t deter the U.S. from continuing its missions in the area.

ACROSS THE NATION

New Mexico Legislature rejects ban in immigration detention

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—New Mexico legislators rejected a proposal Tuesday to prohibit state and local government agencies from contracting with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain immigrants as they seek asylum in the U.S. The bill failed on a 17-21 vote of the state Senate. It also would have phased out local government participation in three-way agreements with private detention facilities and federal authorities. The bill held implications for three privately operated detention facilities in New Mexico — and would have effectively ended migrant detention in early 2025 at the privately operated Otero County Processing Center at Chaparral in southern New Mexico on the outskirts of El Paso, Texas. Legislatures in Colorado and New York are considering similar bills that would restrict local government contracts with federal immigration authorities or with private contractors through intergovernmental service agreements.

San Francisco board open to reparations with \$5M payouts

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Payments of \$5 million to every eligible Black adult, the elimination of personal debt and tax burdens, guaranteed annual incomes of at least \$97,000 for 250 years and homes in San Francisco for just \$1 a family. These were some of the more than 100 recommendations made by a city-appointed reparations committee tasked with the thorny question of how to atone for centuries of slavery and systemic racism. And the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hearing the report for the first time Tuesday voiced enthusiastic support for the ideas listed, with some saying money should not stop the city from doing the right thing. Several supervisors said they were surprised to hear pushback from politically liberal San Franciscans apparently unaware that the legacy of slavery and racist policies continues to keep Black Americans on the bottom rungs of health, education and economic prosperity, and overrepresented in prisons and homeless populations.

Lawmakers fear spill on Keystone system in southern Kansas

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—State lawmakers worried Tuesday that southern Kansas is vulnerable to oil spills from the Keystone pipeline system because earthquakes have become more frequent there, as they questioned an executive for the pipeline’s operator about a massive spill in northeastern Kansas in December. Gary Salsman, a vice president for field operations for Canada-based TC Energy, was briefing three Kansas legislative committees about the Dec. 7 rupture on the Keystone pipeline in Washington County, Kansas, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) northwest of Kansas City. It was the largest U.S. onshore spill in nearly nine years, and the company expects to spend \$480 million cleaning it up, with those efforts lasting at least into the summer. Salsman told a joint meeting of the Kansas House energy committee and its water committee that safety is TC Energy’s top priority and that the company will stay in Washington County until the cleanup is complete. He later gave a similar briefing to the Senate Utilities Committee.

Environment

EPA to limit toxic ‘forever chemicals’ in drinking water

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday proposed the first federal limits on harmful “forever chemicals” in drinking water, a long-awaited protection the agency said will save thousands of lives and prevent serious illnesses, including cancer.

The plan would limit toxic PFAS chemicals to the lowest level that tests can detect. PFAS, or per- and polyfluorinated substances, are a group of compounds that are widespread, dangerous and expensive to remove from water. They don’t degrade in the environment and are linked to a broad range of health issues, including low birthweight and kidney cancer.

“The science is clear that long-term exposure to PFAS is linked to significant health risks,” Radhika Fox, assistant EPA administrator for water, said in an interview.

Fox called the federal proposal a “transformational change” for improving the safety of drinking water in the United States. The agency estimates the rule could reduce PFAS exposure for nearly 100 million Americans, decreasing rates of cancer, heart attacks

and birth complications.

The chemicals had been used since the 1940s in consumer products and industry, including in nonstick pans, food packaging and firefighting foam. Their use is now mostly phased out in the U.S., but some still remain.

The proposal would set strict limits of 4 parts per trillion, the lowest level that can be reliably measured, for two common types of PFAS compounds called PFOA and PFOS. In addition, the EPA wants to regulate the combined amount of four other types of PFAS. Water providers will have to monitor for PFAS.

The public will have a chance to comment, and the agency can make changes before issuing a final rule, expected by the end of the year.

The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators called the proposal “a step in the right direction” but said compliance will be challenging. Despite available federal money, “significant rate increases will be required for most of the systems” that must remove PFAS, the group said Tuesday.

Environmental and public



JOSHUA A. BICKEL/AP

Eric Kleiner, center, sorts samples for experimentation as part of drinking water and PFAS research at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Center For Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, in Cincinnati.

health advocates have called for federal regulation of PFAS chemicals for years. Over the last decade, the EPA has repeatedly strengthened its protective, voluntary health thresholds for the chemicals but has not imposed mandatory limits on water providers.

Public concern has increased in recent years as testing reveals PFAS chemicals in a growing list of communities

that are often near manufacturing plants or Air Force bases.

Until now, only a handful of states have issued PFAS regulations, and none has set limits as strict as what the EPA is proposing. By regulating PFOA and PFOS at the minimum amounts that tests can detect, the EPA is proposing the tightest possible standards that are technically feasible, experts said.

“This is a really historic moment,” said Melanie Benesh, vice president of government affairs at the Environmental Working Group. “There are many communities that have had PFAS in their water for decades who have been waiting for a long time for this announcement to come out.”

The agency said its proposal will protect everyone, including vulnerable com-

munities, and reduce illness on a massive scale. The EPA wants water providers to do testing, notify the public when PFAS are found and remove the compounds when levels are too high.

Utilities that have high levels of a contaminant are typically given time to fix problems, but they could face fines or loss of federal grants if problems persist.

The American Chemistry Council, which represents large chemical companies, slammed EPA’s “misguided approach” and said, “these low limits will likely result in billions of dollars in compliance costs.”

In a statement Tuesday, the group said it has “serious concerns with the underlying science used to develop” the proposed rule, adding: “It’s critical that EPA gets the science right.”

The proposal would also regulate other types of PFAS like GenX Chemicals, which manufacturers used as a substitute when PFOA and PFOS were phased out of consumer products. The proposal would regulate the cumulative health threat of those compounds and mandate treatment if that threat is too high.

Scientists say climate change goosed New Zealand storm fury

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Climate change worsened flooding from a tropical cyclone that shut down much of New Zealand last month in one of the country’s costliest disasters, scientists said, but they couldn’t quite calculate how much it magnified the catastrophe.

A flash study Tuesday by 23 scientists from around the globe found that global warming from the burning of fossil fuels added to the downpours from Cyclone Gabrielle that included at least six hours of deluges of nearly an inch per hour (20 millimeters per hour) of driving rain. But normal methods to quantify how much climate change added to the disaster weren’t conclusive enough for scientists because weather records there don’t go back very far, the area affected was relatively small and the region is subject to naturally high weather variability.

“Climate change is a serious concern for flooding in New Zealand and you’ve got to understand these are gigantic amounts of rainfall,” said Sam Dean, a co-author and

scientist at New Zealand’s National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research. “I have no doubt whatsoever in my mind with my experience of my life as a climate scientist that climate change has influenced the event but do we know it’s exactly 30%? No, we don’t.”

The study is not yet peer-reviewed, the gold standard in science, because it is such a recent event. But the scientists at World Weather Attribution follow well-established techniques for attributing climate change—comparing a given event to simulations of what would have resulted without accelerated warming—and later get their work published in peer-reviewed journals.

More than 200,000 homes lost power for days on end, a nationwide emergency was declared and the storm caused \$8 billion (\$13 billion New Zealand) in damage to New Zealand, called Aotearoa in Indigenous Māori. In some places rainfall totaled as much as 15.7 inches (400 millimeters) in just two days, according to the Meteorological Service of New Zealand. The storm killed 11 people.

UN chief: ‘Cold, hard facts’ should guide climate policy

BERLIN (AP)—The head of the United Nations called Monday for scientists to serve up “cold, hard facts” to push governments into making policies that curb climate change before a key global warming threshold is passed.

His comments came as experts and officials from around the world gathered for a week-long meeting in the Swiss Alpine town of Interlaken to finalize the last of seven reports issued by the global body’s panel of top scientists since the Paris climate accord was forged in 2015.

In a video address to delegates, U.N. Secretary-Gener-

al Antonio Guterres said that the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change “could not come at a more pivotal time.”

“Our world is at a crossroads—and our planet is in the crosshairs,” he said. “We are nearing the point of no return; of overshooting the internationally agreed limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) of global warming.”

That threshold, agreed in Paris almost eight years ago and measured against average temperatures during pre-industrial times, has become the



Guterres

yardstick for climate scientists who warn of the dangers of an ever hotter planet.

Guterres cited recent IPCC reports showing that while some impacts of global warming are already unavoidable, “it is possible to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees with rapid and deep emissions reductions across all sectors of the global economy.” Some scientists disagree, noting that the rate at which greenhouse gas is being pumped into the atmosphere makes this limit almost impossible to keep to.

The U.N. chief said the final installment in the IPCC’s sixth reporting cycle—known as the synthesis report because it brings together insights from six previous papers—should provide governments with “solid, frank, detailed scientific guidance to make the right decisions for people and planet” when they gather for the annual world climate conference in Dubai at the end of the year.

Guterres stressed that speeding up the phase-out of fossil fuels is “tough but essential.”

“Show the urgent need to end global heating with cold, hard facts,” he told delegates.

\$2.5B in grants for EV chargers aim at underserved US areas

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government on Tuesday announced \$2.5 billion in new grants for the construction of electric vehicle charging stations and alternative fueling infrastructure, aiming in part at increasing access in underserved neighborhoods and communities.

Known as the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure or CFI program, the grants will be doled out over a five-year period, with an emphasis on both highway chargers but

also locations in traditionally underserved and disadvantaged urban, rural and tribal communities.

A statement from the Department of Transportation said the grants will be targeted to “fill gaps in the national charging and alternative-fueling network.”

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in the statement that the overarching goal is “modernizing our infrastructure and creating good jobs in the process.”

He hailed the fresh funding

as “another big step forward in creating an EV future that is convenient, affordable, reliable, and accessible to all Americans.”

The \$2.5 billion in funding is split evenly into two tracks: a Community Program which seeks to strategically distribute chargers in underserved locations in cities and communities; and a Corridor Program, which will focus on highways with the goal of establishing Alternative Fuel Corridors to enable gasoline-free cross-country travel

and long-haul trucking.

The money builds on a separate \$5 billion in federal money dedicated to growing a nationwide network of EV chargers specifically along highways. The Biden administration has been prioritizing construction on highway routes that can allow EV drivers to go long distances, at the expense for now of neighborhoods, shopping centers and apartment dwellings in more urban areas where chargers have been in relatively higher demand.

Life & Style

Lindsay Lohan announces pregnancy in Instagram post

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan is expecting her first child.

The “Mean Girls” star announced her pregnancy in an Instagram post on Tuesday, sharing an image of a baby onesie with “Coming soon...” written on it. The post was captioned “We are blessed and excited!”

Lohan married financier Bader Shamas in 2022, People magazine reported.

A message sent to Lohan’s representative was not immediately returned.

The 36-year-old actor, who was once a tabloid mainstay, has lived overseas



Lohan

for several years and kept a lower public profile.

She recently returned to acting, starring in Netflix’s “Falling for Christmas” last year, and stars in the streaming service’s upcoming romantic comedy “Irish Wish.”

HBO’s ‘The Last of Us’ season finale draws in a series high

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“The Last of Us” fans set another rating record for the season one finale of the apocalyptic, mushroom-infected zombie video game adaptation. Despite airing against the Oscars Sunday night, HBO said the season finale drew in 8.2 million viewers.

Viewership for “The Last of Us” has consistently grown throughout the season. The series has not only won over gamers with high expectations but also critics and people who aren’t famil-

iar with the game.

The series premiere drew 4.7 million viewers in the U.S., based on Nielsen and HBO data, making for HBO’s second-largest debut, behind “House of the Dragon.” Outside of the U.S., “The Last of Us” is now the most-watched show in the history of HBO Max in both Europe and Latin America, HBO said.

As viewers watch episodes on the streaming platforms days after the episodes air, the numbers

for the series will continue to increase. The series is now averaging 30.4 million viewers across its first six episodes, with the first episode approaching 40 million viewers in the U.S., HBO said.

HBO did concede to the ratings behemoth that is the Super Bowl, dropping the fifth episode of “The Last of Us” on HBO Max and HBO On Demand early last month on the Friday before the big game on Feb. 12. But the ratings for episode five

Author Leigh Bardugo reaches blockbuster deal with publisher

NEW YORK (AP)—Million-selling author Leigh Bardugo has reached a blockbuster deal with Macmillan Publishers, an eight-figure agreement for a dozen books across several imprints.

According to Macmillan, the books will comprise a “variety of formats, age categories and genres.” Bardugo is best known for her Grishaverse fantasy novels, which include “Shadow and



Bardugo

Bone,” the basis for a Netflix series of the same name that begins its second season this week. She also has written the adult fantasy novel “Ninth House” and its recently released sequel “Hell Bent.”

“Macmillan took a chance on me over a decade ago and they’ve been my home ever since. When no one in YA was interested in epic fantasy, they welcomed ‘Shadow and Bone,’” Bar-

dugo said in a statement Tuesday. “When everyone wanted books about kings and queens, they rolled the dice on my team of six outcasts (in her novel ‘Six of Crows’) trying to pull off an impossible heist.”

“And when I wanted to go someplace far darker, they backed me in welcoming readers to Ninth House,” she added. “Publishing is a tough business and it’s no small thing to be able to write the stories I’m most passionate about.”

were still strong, with 11.6 million viewers from Friday through Sunday.

The series finale ended with Joel making some difficult and controversial

decisions that left viewers wondering what was next for protagonists Ellie (Bella Ramsey) and Joel (Pedro Pascal). While not much has been officially announced

about the second season, fans of the video game know about “The Last of Us Part II” and are eagerly anticipating how the game will be adapted for season two.

Oprah Winfrey reflects on book club, announces 100th pick

NEW YORK (AP)—For her 100th book club pick, Oprah Winfrey relied on the same instincts she has drawn upon from the start: Does the story move her? Does she think about it for days after?



Winfrey

In a work of fiction, do the characters seem real to her?

“When I don’t move on, that’s always a sign to me there’s something powerful and moving,” Winfrey told The Associated Press in a recent tele-

phone interview.

On Tuesday, she announced that she had chosen Ann Napolitano’s “Hello Beautiful,” a modern-day homage to “Little Women” from the author of the bestselling “Dear Edward.” The novel was published Tuesday by Dial Press, a Penguin Random House imprint, and Winfrey believes its themes of family, resilience and perspective give “Hello Beautiful” a “universal

appeal” that makes it a proper milestone.

A Winfrey pick no longer ensures blockbuster sales, but it retains a special status within the industry; for authors, a call from Winfrey still feels like being told they’ve won an Oscar. Winfrey told AP that she is in “awe” of the club and its history, “the very notion” that someone might go and buy a copy of “Anna Karenina” or a little known book simply because she suggested it.

“She is the queen,” says Jen-

na Bush Hager, who hosts the popular “Read With Jenna” club on NBC’s “Today” show. “I remember being a high school senior, in AP English, and reading (David Guterson’s) ‘Snow Falling on Cedars’ because I had walked into the local bookstore and seen that Oprah had recommended it.”

Kristen McLean, an analyst for NPD Books, which tracks industry sales, says that Winfrey is especially effective these days when promoting a known author such as Barbara King-

solver and her novel “Demon Copperhead,” a bestseller since Winfrey picked it last fall that has far outsold her two previous works of fiction.

Since 1996, Winfrey’s book choices have set her on a journey of extraordinary influence and success, frequent reinvention and the occasional controversy. It has endured through changes for both Winfrey and the publishing industry, through the rise of the internet and the end of Winfrey’s syndicated talk show, through immersions in the classics and unexpected lessons in the reli-

ability of memoirs and the lack of diversity of book publishing.

Thanks to Winfrey, contemporary authors such as Jacquelyn Mitchard and Jane Hamilton found audiences they never imagined, while picks published decades or even centuries earlier, from “Anna Karenina” to “As I Lay Dying,” placed high on bestseller lists. Winfrey didn’t invent the mass market book club, but she demonstrated that spontaneous passion can inspire people in ways that elude the most sophisticated marketing campaigns.

Co-worker insists on picking up the check

DEAR ABBY: I have a colleague who has become an amazing friend over the last few years. We plan dinner dates or work conferences periodically, and we also try to book spa appointments together when we have vacation time.

“Sandy” is everything a person would want in a friend. However, when we go out to eat, she usually insists on paying for my meal. She has also prepaid some of my spa appointments. When this pattern first started, I was a little put off, but I appreciated her generosity—maybe a little selfishly—because it saved me money. But now I feel constantly indebted to her because I can never seem to return the favor.

When I insist on paying for myself, we argue and bicker. Sandy says she wants to show her appreciation for my partnership at work. She also explains that I have children (who are assumedly expensive) whereas she is childless. She justifies it by rationalizing that her husband makes an impressive salary. They are comfortable, but not extravagantly wealthy.

Lately, I have come to resent the situation because I don’t want to feel like a charity case. Not only am I more than able to pay for myself, I also don’t want to feel limited when ordering food. Knowing she’s going to foot the bill makes me reluctant to order the food or beverage of my choosing. How do I approach this without tarnishing our professional work relationship and the friendship we have built? Is this the altruism of a selfless person and my ego getting in the way? Or is there a

deeper motive I haven’t considered?

TREATED TOO WELL

DEAR TREATED: I am going to assume that you have already communicated to Sandy that this dynamic makes you uncomfortable, and why. If you haven’t, do it now. She may be the soul of generosity, but some people use money as a means to control or dominate others. Not knowing Sandy, I can’t guess what motivates her, but clearly the two of you should be able to have a mature conversation without anyone becoming defensive.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My niece’s mother-in-law of 32 years, “Helen,” died seven months ago. I have been quietly seeing her widowed husband, “Wayne,” for about three months now. We knew each other only socially up until then. After Helen’s death, my niece, her husband and their children went on vacation because Helen’s illness had been a long, drawn-out ordeal. I was tasked with giving Wayne a nightly call to check on him, which I did. We realized we had a lot in common and, as they say, the rest is history.

The problem is telling his children and grandchildren. He and Helen were married 59 years but didn’t have a happy marriage for the last 23. Should we tell them or continue keeping it a secret?

UNEXPECTED LOVE IN THE EAST

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR UNEXPECTED: Although you have no reason to be sneaking around, in my opinion you should stay quiet for another few months—until it has been a year since Helen’s passing. At that point, Wayne should tell the niece and other relatives that he thinks you have a lot in common and you are going to see each other. In a perfect world, everyone would be glad that the two of you are finding happiness after so much sadness.

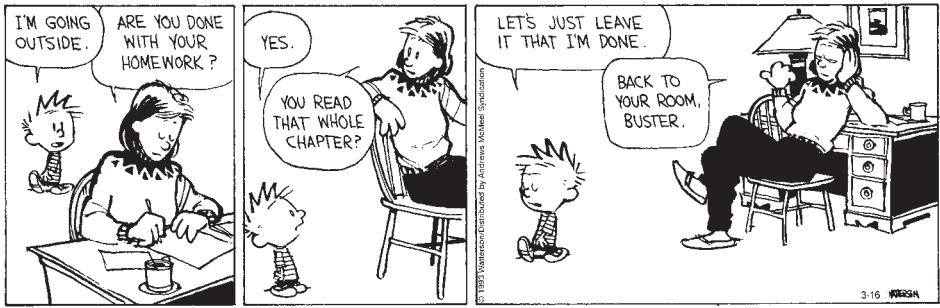
■ ■ ■ ■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

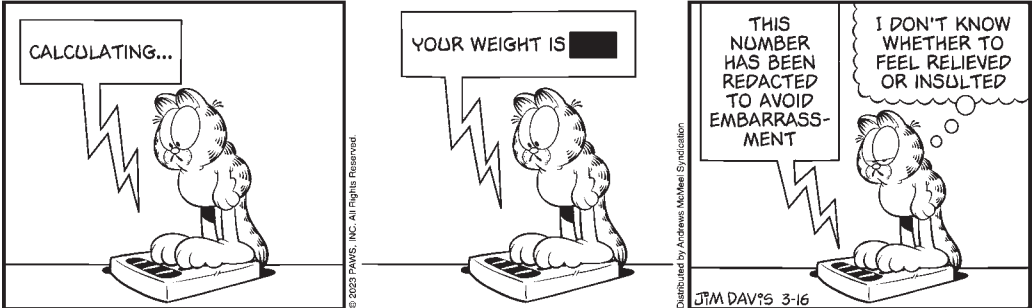
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



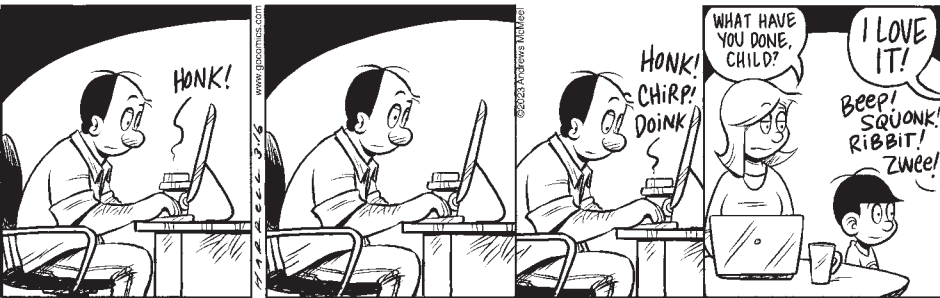
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



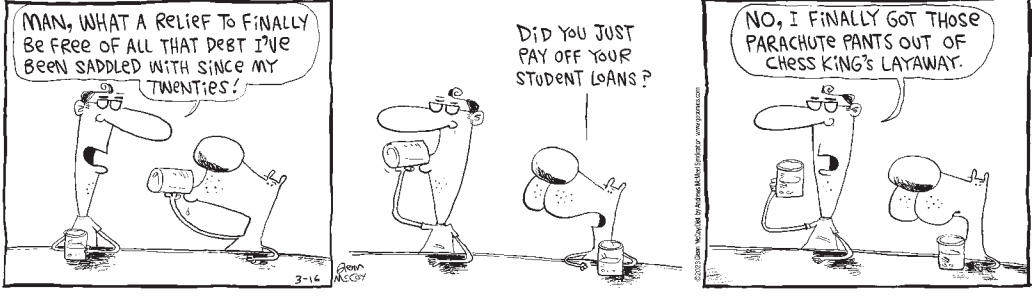
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Charitable donation
5 Pasta sauce brand
9 Sched. place-holder
12 Check
13 Son of Seth
14 Pie — mode
15 Relaxes
17 Deleted
18 Bed linens
19 Singer Wainwright
21 Egyptian sun god
22 Green sauce
24 New news
27 Brady Bunch girl
28 Thus
31 Sailor
32 Moreover
33 Unruly group
34 Goblet feature
36 — Moines
37 Wine region

DOWN

1 — and crafts
2 Wife of Jacob
3 Karaoke prop
4 Derisive looks
5 Boxing arbiters
6 Black-bird
7 Head of st.
8 Software custom-ers
9 IRS docu-ments
10 — cheese dressing
11 Root beer brand
16 Depot (Abbr.)
20 Salt Lake athlete
22 Talk show group
23 Termini
24 UFO pilots
25 Corpu-lent
26 Rainfor-est am-phibian
27 Green gem
29 Acquired
30 Kimono closer
35 1011, to Caesar
37 Com-poser Schoen-berg
39 Peony part
40 Klutz
41 Help a hood
42 Dalai —
43 Lose traction
44 Zwei follower
45 Nobel Prize subj.
46 Kick back
49 Expert
50 — Juan

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-16

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joel Embiid, 29; Judah Friedlander, 54; Lauren Graham, 56; Victor Garber, 74.

Happy Birthday: Call in favors, reconnect with people you lost touch with and miss, and take stock of your life and what you want to do next. Refuse to let the little things get to you, and concentrate on what brings you joy. Life is too short to waste on negativity and people you don't like. Declutter your life and embrace the future with enthusiasm. Your numbers are 8, 15, 23, 28, 34, 36, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stand back and watch. Gather information, study trends and prepare to make a statement that will set you on the path you desire. Refuse to let someone else decide your fate. Build the life that makes you happy, and regret will disappear. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Jumping from one thing to another will give you the upper hand when someone tries to beat you at your own game. Don't get involved in joint ventures or let anyone handle your finances or negotiations. Change only what will benefit you. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be eager to put things behind you. Don't jump without mapping out your safest route. A calculated plan executed with precision will help you navigate situations that test you mentally, physically and emotionally. Choose love over discord. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do things differently and you'll draw a crowd. Pitch an idea and you'll generate interest. Have a bottom line in mind before you negotiate your terms. Be prepared to protect your

health and physical well-being should someone put you at risk. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Pay attention to changes in your chosen field. Keeping up will help you stay on top. Taking a professional approach will help you get others to assist you in doing things. Don't underestimate the competition. Be ready to up your game. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can have fun without overspending. A change in your disposition will occur if you look after your emotional needs. Take charge and speak up. Making it clear what and to whom you are loyal to will clear up misconceptions someone harbors. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a moment to assess a challenge or change that can influence your future. An opportunity will not be as good as someone wants you to believe. Don't hesitate to jump in and make adjustments that keep you on track and eliminate interference. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Mix things up a bit, and you'll enjoy what transpires. Spend time with someone you love. Plans will fall into place that make you feel optimistic about the future. Invest time and money in your home, and your assets will grow. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Engage in activities that prompt love, romance and fixing up your personal space. Don't take on too much or make promises that may be difficult to keep. The temptation will lead you astray, and false information will disappoint you. Stick to what you do best. ***

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your life moderate, affordable and free of clutter. Say no to overindulgence and exaggeration. Concentrate on positive change that promises stability and less stress. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. Choose physical challenges to work through frustrations. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Leave nothing to chance; take an active role in setting things up to your specifications. Control situations that influence your earning potential, and refuse to let what others believe sway your opinion. Happiness depends on the decisions you make. Choose wisely. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Sort your differences with others. Spend more time on self-improvement and adjustments to your routine that offer additional time for fitness and a healthier lifestyle. An emotional shift due to a financial change is apparent. *****

Birthday Baby: You are persuasive, demonstrative and entertaining. You are playful and helpful.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			8	9		2					
2	6	9								5	
	1										7
	5			6		4	1				
		4			5					9	
	9		3	7		5				6	
		6		9	7			3			
	7		3			9					
4			1	6	7						

Difficulty: ★★★ 3-16
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	4	1	3	9	8	6	7	5
5	6	3	1	2	7	9	4	8
8	9	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9	3	6	5	7	1	2	8	4
1	5	4	8	6	2	7	9	3
7	2	8	4	3	9	1	5	6
3	1	9	2	8	5	4	6	7
4	7	5	9	1	6	8	3	2
6	8	2	7	4	3	5	1	9

Difficulty: ★★★ 3-15

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JEFF BECK (1944-2023) Solution: 9 letters

B W N B Y E R F F O E G Y A I
E I O O L A I T N E U L F N I
E L C N I O Z Z Y I L B S N R
C D E T D T W K T O O T T E O
I L S L R E O A F L R R A T L
P I L L C A R M E U E D R T Y
P F E O A I W E M G D S N A A
A E O R S O E O O D Y C O L W
I C H T H C N B T R C I L B E
C O W S K T L L I S O S D U E
I N I O A U D B O T O U R M R
R C R L E E D G N V R M G S F
T E E S D R S T A G E U M H F
A R D N A W A T E R S R T A E
P T E Y M M I J Y F L A S H J

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Albums, Annetta, Appice, Arnold, Blow, Blues, Bogert, Bolero, Cash, Commotion, Concert, Emotion, Ended, Flash, Folly, Freeway, Geoffrey, Guitarist, Influential, Instrumental, Jam, Jeff, Jimmy, Lovers, Music, Ozzy, Patricia, Ready, Rock, Rough, Show, Stage, Stewart, Stroll, Tour, Truth, Waters, Who Else, Wildlife, Wired, Wonder, Yardbirds
Yesterday's Answer: Delicious

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STUMPED?

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Bucks beat Suns, clinch playoff berth with 50th victory



P H O E N I X (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 36 points, Brook Lopez added 21 and the NBA-leading Milwaukee Bucks clinched a playoff spot by beating the Phoenix Suns 116-104 on Tuesday night to become the first team to 50 wins this season.

The Bucks pulled away late for their 21st win in 23 games and are the first team to secure a postseason berth. The Suns have dropped three straight.

Antetokounmpo added 11 rebounds and eight assists. Lopez shot 10 of 14 from the field and added 10 rebounds. The Bucks closed the game on a 24-9 run.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 30 points on 13-of-27 shooting. Deandre Ayton had 19 points and eight rebounds despite playing just 26 minutes because of foul trouble.

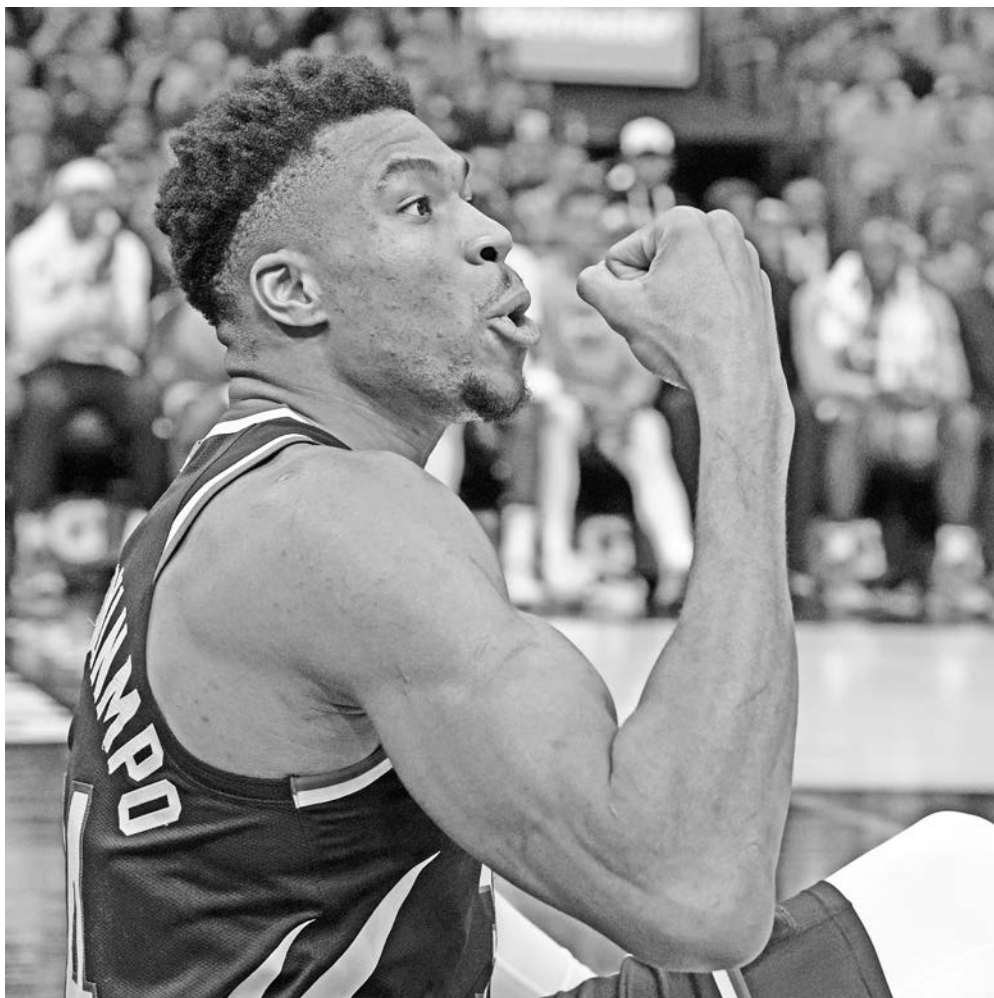
RAPTORS 125, NUGGETS 110

TORONTO (AP)—Fred VanVleet scored 36 points, O.G. Anunoby had 24 and Toronto used a franchise-record 49-point first quarter to hand Denver its season-high fourth straight loss.

Nikola Jokic scored 28 points, Michael Porter Jr. had 23 and Aaron Gordon had 18 for the Western Conference-leading Nuggets, who are winless since a March 6 home victory over the Raptors.

VanVleet shot 13 for 22 and made a season-high eight of his 12 attempts from distance as Toronto extended its home winning streak to five.

Jakob Poeltl had 12 points and 11 rebounds, Pascal Siakam scored 12 points and Gary Trent Jr. had 11 for



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo reacts after a play against the Phoenix Suns during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 14, 2023, in Phoenix. AP

the Raptors.

Jamal Murray shot 5 for 18 and scored 14 points and Bruce Brown added 12, but the Nuggets lost the opener of a season-high, five-game trip.

LAKERS 123, PELICANS 108

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Anthony Davis had 35 points and 17 rebounds, Malik Beasley hit seven 3-pointers in the first half, and Los Angeles built a 36-point lead in the second quarter in its win over New Orleans.

Beasley finished with 24 points for the Lakers, who shot 18 of 39 from 3-point

range— including 15 of 27 before halftime. D'Angelo Russell added 17 points to help Los Angeles (34-35) move one game ahead of New Orleans (33-36) in the Western Conference standings.

Brandon Ingram returned to New Orleans' lineup after missing two games with a right ankle injury, but his 22 points were not nearly enough.

Herbert Jones and Trey Murphy III each scored 20 for the Pelicans, who trailed 75-40 at halftime.

KNICKS 123, TRAIL BLAZERS 107

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—

Immanuel Quickley scores 26 points and New York mounted a rally in the third quarter to beat Portland.

Julius Randle added 24 points for the Knicks, who were again without injured guard Jalen Brunson.

Quickley scored 14 of his points in the third quarter and the Knicks outscored the Blazers 42-26 to lead 91-81 lead going into the final period. The Knicks stretched the lead to 108-92 on former Blazer Josh Hart's layup with 7:32 left in the game. New York led by as many as 19 points in the fourth.

Damian Lillard was ques-

tionable before the game with a calf injury, but he started for Portland and led all scorers with 38 points.

SPURS 132, MAGIC 114

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Jeremy Sochan had 29 points and 10 rebounds and San Antonio had a franchise-high 22 3-pointers and season-high 39 assists in beating Orlando.

San Antonio center Zach Collins added 25 points, six rebounds and five assists. The Spurs are 6-27 in 2023, but have now won four of seven.

Orlando rookie Paolo Banchero had 27 points and Wendell Carter Jr. added 16 points. The Magic have lost five of their last seven games in their push for a berth in the post-season play-in tournament.

Sochan returned from a one-game absence, but the Spurs were without Keldon Johnson, Malaki Branham, Tre Jones, Rome Langford. The Spurs responded with their best shooting game of the season, making 57% of its shots from the field and going 22 for 41 from 3-point range.

THUNDER 121, NETS 107

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Josh Giddey had 15 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists and Oklahoma City beat Brooklyn for its sixth win in seven games.

Lu Dort matched his season high with 24 points and added nine rebounds for Oklahoma City, which rallied from a 14-point, first-half deficit thanks mostly to a sizzling third quarter, during which Dort made five 3-pointers.

Mikal Bridges scored 34 points and Cam Johnson add-

ed 23 for Brooklyn, which had won five of its last six games, with four of those wins on the road.

WIZARDS 117, PISTONS 97

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bradley Beal scored 36 points, and Washington snapped its three-game losing streak with a victory over Detroit.

Playing without Kyle Kuzma, the Wizards still raced out to a 22-point advantage in the first quarter, and although they've had issues holding those types of leads this season, the last-place Pistons represented little threat.

Washington (32-37) moved percentage points ahead of Chicago (31-36) for the final play-in spot in the Eastern Conference.

Killian Hayes scored 20 points to lead Detroit, which had snapped an 11-game skid by beating Indiana on Monday.

CAVALIERS 120, HORNETS 104

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Evan Mobley had 26 points and Cleveland scored 35 points off Charlotte turnovers and beat the Hornets for the second time in three days.

Cedi Osman scored 24 points off the bench and Caris LeVert added 22 points and seven assists for the Cavaliers, who played without All-Star guard Donovan Mitchell (sprained finger) and center Jarrett Allen (eye contusion). Darius Garland chipped in 19 points.

Kelly Oubre Jr. had 28 points and Terry Rozier added 22 points and 10 assists for the Hornets, who have lost three straight and fell to 11-27 at home.

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Let's go ahead and put Denver and Sacramento into the Western Conference playoffs. It's hard to imagine Memphis and Phoenix falling out of the mix, even with Ja Morant away from the Grizzlies and Kevin Durant still not able to make his home debut for the Suns because of ankle trouble. Put them on the bracket as well.

And from there, it's anyone's guess.

The West is an absolute mess, and the middle of the pack—the race for the last two guaranteed playoff spots and the four berths into the play-in tournament—is as muddled and murky as possible.

"Hope," Utah coach Will Hardy said, "is a good motivator."

True. There's plenty of hope still out there, too.

The West has, more often

Analysis: Grabbing NBA play-in spots in West will be tough

than not in recent years, been the power-broker side of the NBA. Not this year. The shinier records are at the top of the Eastern Conference, which is on pace to finish with three of the best four records this season — something that hasn't happened since 2008-09.

The West has become a logjam this year, and the standings change almost nightly. A single win or loss can change everything: Utah was ninth in the West entering Monday, and a four-point loss at Miami left the Jazz tumbling three spots to 12th. The Los Angeles Lakers, meanwhile, went from 11th to ninth—from out of the play-in to back in—without even playing.

Defending champion Golden State beat Phoenix and went from sixth to fifth. After the Warriors, it's the Los An-

geles Clippers in sixth, Minnesota seventh, Dallas eighth, the Lakers ninth, New Orleans 10th, Oklahoma City 11th and the Jazz 12th.

Put another way, 2 1/2 games separated the fifth-place Warriors from the 11th-place Thunder. Only 4 1/2 games separated the Warriors from the 13th-place Portland Trail Blazers. It's hard to envision a scenario, given how tight the standings are right now, where at least some West races for seeding don't go down to the final day.

"No one's really out of it right now, at this point in the Western Conference," Hardy said. "There's a couple teams that have fallen, I guess, out of the race, but 5 through 13 are so tight that every team is competing each night with that hope of like, 'Hey, if you

string a few together, you can really vault in the standings.' We'd all be lying if we say we don't check the standings. We definitely do, but it can be a little distracting."

This is exactly what the NBA wanted when it added the play-in tournament—intrigue all the way to the end of the season. Only the top six teams in each conference are guaranteed playoff spots when the regular season ends on April 9; the next four from the East and West go to a play-in tournament to decide the No. 7 and No. 8 seeds on the respective brackets.

Only three teams—Houston, San Antonio and Detroit—have been eliminated. Charlotte isn't too far away from joining that trio. Everyone else still has a legitimate chance, at least at the play-in.

"You do have to embrace the competition," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "When you're dreaming about things in the middle of the summer, this is what you want. You want games with incredible pressure and context. You don't want games to have no meaning, to play for lottery balls. You want to have this kind of context. And you want to see what this competition can bring out of you."

Teams will find out, whether they want to know or not.

There are no fewer than 24 matchups the rest of the way that will pit those teams vying for spots 5 through 8 on the West bracket against one another, meaning those nights could lead to a big swing in the standings.

It also might come down to which teams get somebody

back in time to help the cause.

The Lakers may get LeBron James back at some point. The Warriors aren't sure when Andrew Wiggins—out for personal reasons—could return, or if he will. The Mavericks are dealing with Luka Dončić and Kyrie Irving both having injuries. The Timberwolves hope Karl-Anthony Towns is close to a return from a calf injury. The Pelicans have remained in the race despite not having Zion Williamson, which they're probably used to by now.

Buckle up. Denver might not get caught atop the West. The trio of Milwaukee, Boston and Philadelphia will finish 1-2-3 in the East in some order. But everything else is pretty much up for grabs, especially in the super-cluttered West.

"It's funny what a couple of wins can do right now," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said.

Venezuela tops Nicaragua 4-1 in WBC, is 3-0 in group play



M I A M I
(AP)—Eugenio Suárez and Anthony Santander

had two hits each as Venezuela beat Nicaragua 4-1 Tuesday and improved to 3-0 in the World Baseball Classic.

Venezuela clinched Pool D and reached the quarterfinals when the Dominican Republic defeated Israel later Tuesday.

Suárez's two-run single capped a three-run fourth that overcame a 1-0 deficit. Andrés Giménez's run-scoring single tied the score, and Suárez's lined a ball to right-center that scored Santander and Giménez.

Santander added an RBI double in the fifth.

José Ruiz got the win, pitching two perfect innings of relief. Carlos Hernández, José Quijada, Silvino Bracho and José Alvarado followed and limited Nicaragua to four hits over the final five innings.

Brandon Leyton's RBI groundout against starter Eduardo Rodríguez put Nicaragua ahead 1-0 in the second.

Rodríguez allowed seven hits and struck out three in two-plus innings.

Venezuela closes Group D against Israel on Wednesday.

Nicaragua finished 0-4 in its first WBC and will be forced to participate in qualifying for the 2026 tournament. The Nicaraguans hit .192 and were outscored 22-4.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 10, ISRAEL 0 (7 innings)

MIAMI (AP)—Manny Machado homered, singled and drove in three runs as the Dominican Republic improved to 2-1 and clinched the top spot in Pool D for Venezuela.

AL Rookie of the Year Julio Rodríguez and Eloy Jiménez each had two hits for the Do-



Venezuela's Luis Rengifo (1) is congratulated by his teammates after scoring during the fifth inning of a World Baseball Classic game against Nicaragua. Tuesday, March 14, 2023, in Miami.

minican Republic.

The Dominican Republic finished with 15 hits against seven Israeli pitchers—the last a two-run double by Jean

Segura that ended the game in the seventh because of the tournament's mercy rule.

Jiménez gave the Dominican Republic a quick lead

with his run-scoring single in the first.

Machado's solo shot and Ketel Marte's RBI double in the third made it 3-0. Mach-

ado hit a slider from reliever Evan Kravetz 437 feet into the pavilion above left-center for his second homer of the tournament.

The Dominican Republic broke it open in the sixth. Rodríguez doubled in two runs and Machado followed with a two-run single.

A night after not getting a runner against Puerto Rico in an eight-inning loss, Israel had its only baserunner in the third, when Spencer Horwitz hit a leadoff single off starter Roansy Contreras.

Genesis Cabrera got the win in relief.

The Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico play for the second spot in the group Wednesday.

CANADA 5, COLOMBIA 0

PHOENIX (AP)—Otto Lopez hit a three-run homer, Noah Skirrow threw five quality innings and Canada shut out Colombia.

Canada led 1-0 going into the eighth inning, but Owen Caissie had a two-out, RBI single to push the lead to 2-0. Lopez's three-run shot in the ninth gave them an even bigger cushion.

Canada's pitching staff gave up just five hits and one walk, bouncing back from a 12-1 loss to the United States on Monday.

Colombia's Oscar Mercado had two hits. Adrian Almeida took the loss, giving up one run over three innings.

Canada first baseman and Los Angeles Dodgers star Freddie Freeman left the game in the fourth inning because of a hamstring injury. He ran gingerly out of the batter's box after popping up in the third.

Freeman wasn't expected to play Wednesday against Mexico, Canada manager Ernie Whitt said. Whitt said Freeman's exit was precautionary.

Canada improved to 2-1 in Group C, while Colombia is 1-2.

Puerto Rico breaks world record as baseball fans go blond

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The blonds are back.

Puerto Rico on Friday broke the Guinness World record for the most hair dyed, with 192 men going blond to support the U.S. territory's team that is vying to win the World Baseball Classic after finishing twice as runner-up.

The team's players first dyed their hair blond ahead of the 2017 World Baseball Classic as a joke, unexpectedly unleashing a dyeing craze in Puerto Rico that left pharmacies and beauty supply stores bereft of hair dye.

The tournament is usually held every four years, but the pandemic delayed it by two years, so after six years of no dye jobs and no "Team Rubio!" cheers, many Puerto

Ricans were eager to see if the trend would continue.

The players obliged and repeated the tradition this year, and people in the island of overwhelmingly dark hair once again responded via platinum blond, dirty blond and even burnt orange locks and beards to show their support.

"The more blond hair, the more united we'll be as a people," photographer Miguel Rodríguez Camilo said while waiting for his dark hair to change color.

He was one of more than 200 men who showed up for the mass bleaching event Friday. Some were disqualified for various reasons, including that they didn't take the obligatory "before" picture.

Guinness World record

adjudicator Natalia Ramírez noted that a handful were disqualified because they already had white or graying hair.

"If you can't really see a change, it doesn't count," she said.

Participants sat in an outdoor area for up to 45 minutes wearing plastic shower caps as they laughed at each other, took selfies and observed themselves in their smartphones as colorists came by and peeked under the shower caps.

"I wasn't going to do it, but my colleagues pressured me into it," said William Davidowski, a 51-year-old with naturally dark brown hair who works at the insurance company that helped organize the event.

The World Baseball Classic just started, but Davidowski wasn't sure how long he will stay a blond.

"It depends on how it looks," he said with a laugh.

He walked out nearly an hour later with a baseball cap on.

Organizers of the event had eight hours to beat the previous record, set in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 2013 when 160 people dyed their hair. More than five hours after Friday's event began, participant No. 161, the man responsible for breaking the record, walked in to the applause and yells of those gathered.

"Let's always support our guys," Tomás Nieves, a 22-year-old air conditioning technician, said in a low

whisper, explaining that he was nervous about all the attention.

Team Rubio, as Puerto Rico's team is known, almost adopted another hair color this year.

There was talk about players dyeing their hair blue, "but some boys got a little shy," New York Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor said at a recent news conference.

Then Detroit Tigers shortstop Javier Báez posted a picture on Instagram with newly dyed blond hair and, "that was that," Lindor said.

This time, the team was prepared. It hired five barbers and colorists, compared with the lone barber and colorist from 2017. A local university that helped organize Friday's event bought 79 pounds of bleach.

Gilmore, Waller on the move; Bradberry stays with Eagles

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Stephon Gilmore is on the move again, Darren Waller is getting traded from the Raiders less than two weeks after marrying Las Vegas Aces star Kelsey Plum and James Bradberry is staying in Philadelphia.

Those were among the biggest moves on the eve of free agency Tuesday, the second day in which teams were allowed to negotiate with unrestricted free agents.

The deals can't be announced until the start of the league year on Wednesday and therefore were confirmed

to The Associated Press by people speaking on condition of anonymity.

In other notable decisions, the Indianapolis Colts will release longtime NFL quarterback Matt Ryan in a cost-cutting move Wednesday and the Carolina Panthers, who own the top pick in the NFL draft next month and are targeting a quarterback, found their stopgap QB when they agreed to a two-year, \$10 million contract with unrestricted free agent Andy Dalton.

While no teams spent as the Denver Broncos did on Day 1, when they committed a whopping \$219.25 million in salaries to a half dozen players, there was plenty of

action leading up to the official start of the league year, which arrives at 4 p.m. EDT on Wednesday.

The Broncos' new Walton-Penner ownership group, by far the richest in the league, continued its spending spree Tuesday by agreeing to a two-year, \$7.5 million deal with former Bengals running back Samaje Perine.

Denver's starter last season, Javonte Williams, is still recovering from a knee injury he sustained in 2022 and could miss half of the upcoming season.

That deal followed Monday's agreements to acquire tackle Mike McGlinchey (five years, \$87.5 million),

guard Ben Powers (four years, \$52 million), end Zach Allen (three years, \$45.75 million), QB Jarrett Stidham, (two years, \$10 million), TE Chris Manhertz (two years, \$6 million) and ILB Alex Singleton (three years, \$18 million).

The Las Vegas Raiders were busy again Tuesday, agreeing to a three-year, \$33 million deal with former Patriots wide receiver Jakobi Meyers, who reunites with Raiders coach Josh McDaniels, his former offensive coordinator in New England.

Meyers, who has averaged 70 catches and 800 receiving yards over the past three seasons, was involved in one of the worst gaffes in NFL

history when he attempted an unnecessary lateral across the field to quarterback Mac Jones on the final play of a tie game that was headed to overtime in December. Chandler Jones snatched the ball in the air and raced for a touchdown to give the Raiders a win over the Patriots.

The Raiders' acquisition of Meyers helped make Waller expendable. They agreed to send Waller to the New York Giants for a 2023 third-round draft pick.

Waller, who made the Pro Bowl in 2020, gives Giants quarterback Daniel Jones a major playmaker and an upgrade at tight end. Last year's starter, Daniel Bellinger,

caught 30 passes for 268 yards and two touchdowns.

Waller twice has surpassed 1,000 receiving yards, in 2019 and 2020, before injuries cut into his production the past two seasons. In 2022, Waller caught 28 passes for 388 yards and three TDs, missing eight games because of a pulled hamstring.

The trade for Waller, 30, is an effort to boost the Giants' offensive talent around Jones, who agreed to a four-year, \$160 million extension this offseason.

Now the Raiders' offense includes quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, running back Josh Jacobs and receivers Davante Adams, Hunter Renfrow and Meyers. The Raiders agreed to a deal with Garoppolo on Monday and placed the franchise tag on Jacobs last week.

Tasi to Table revels in student-led derby



MARK RABAGO

The crew of the the *Marilyn* won the total weight category of Tasi To Table's 4th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas Fishing Tournament after reeling in 61.1 lbs of fish last Saturday.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Tasi to Table couldn't be happier how the 4th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas turned out and as always attributed the success of the fishing derby to its student-volunteers.

"The 4th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas was a success. A total of 37 boats went out and 37 boats returned home safely. That's what it's all about enjoying the day on the water with friends and family catching fish. Hats off to the students for coordinating yet another success-

ful derby," said the non-profit's president Gene Weaver.

He especially praised the coordinating skills of 4th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas chair Nathan Bauleong of Da'Ok Academy and vice chair Leilani Attao of Marianas High School.

Weaver also praised the fishing derby's main sponsors IT&E and Mobil Oil Marianas as well as other sponsors, among them, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, MARPAC, KKMP, UR Tent Rentals, HBR International, Inc., Roil Soil (shirt sponsor), Herman's Bakery (bread sponsors), Island Image and Motion (vent videography and photography), Office of House Speaker Edmund S. Villago-

mez (Ind-Saipan) for his Porta Potty donations, and the Saipan Mayor's Office for providing the trash trailer.

Tasi to Table also extended their kudos to in-kind sponsors of the student raffle, namely Kensington Hotel Saipan, 360 Revolving Restaurant, Caravan of Food, Coffee Stop, Latte Built Fitness, YCO Hardware True Value, Gold's Gym, Garapan Public Market, Hyatt Regency Saipan, 3M Saipan-Crystal Ecology, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., PHI Pharmacy, Joeten Motors, AQUASMITH, Friendly Market, Coconut Tei, Relox Bar, Blossoms/J's Restaurant

The 4th Annual Wahoo in

the Marianas also wouldn't have been possible without the data recording and fish weighing conducted by the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources- Division of Fish and Wildlife, event safety and law enforcement provided

by DPS Boating Safety, and the various organizations who manned the tables at Smiling Cove Marina during derby day, namely Friends of the Marianas Trench, American Memorial Park, and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

MV *Gloria II*, captained by John T. Sablan, topped Tasi To Table's 4th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas Fishing Tournament last Saturday with a 29.2-lb catch. Defending champion *Salty Bandits* settled for second this time after landing a 28.5-lb wahoo, while *Y-Knot* completed the Top 3 with a 27.7-pounder.

McDonald's of Saipan offers \$3K hole-in-one prize

McDonald's of Saipan announced that it will be offering a \$3,000 hole-in-one cash prize for the Northern Marianas College Foundation's golf open this weekend, March 18 and 19, 2023.

"As a proud member of the Saipan community, McDonald's of Saipan is honored to support Northern Marianas College's upcoming golf open with a \$3,000 hole-in-one prize," said Marcia Ayuyu, vice president and owner/operator of McDonald's of Saipan. "We wish all the participants the best of luck and look forward to a successful and enjoyable event!"

For the first time, NMC's tournament will be a two-day event and will be held on March 18 and 19, 2023, on the east and west courses of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. The tournament fee for the 2023 golf open is \$250. First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies flights (low gross and low net) will each receive \$500. Second place finishers will receive \$300 and third place finishers will receive \$200.

"We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to McDonald's of Saipan for their generous support of NMC's upcoming golf open," NMC Foundation chair Ben Babauta said. "Their \$3,000 hole-in-one prize will undoubtedly make this event even more exciting and meaningful for our participants. Thank you again to McDonald's of Saipan for their commitment to our community and our mission."

This year's tournament will feature thousands of dollars in amazing hole-in-one prizes, such as a brand new 2023 Toyota 4Runner SR5 from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a brand new 2023 Hyundai IO-NIQ 5 SEL with Navigation and AWD and a brand new 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander from Triple J Motors, a brand new 2023 Nissan Rogue from Joeten Motors, a \$10,000 shopping spree at Top Shelf Wine and Spirits, \$10,000 from Ambyth Shipping and Seafix Inc., \$5,000 from Pacifica Insurance, and a YETI cooler from Boarderline.

The tournament, which is the signature event of the NMC Foundation, aims to raise funds for the college for its rebuilding and reconstruction efforts. Despite the devastation and destruction of super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, the college has been aggressively seeking funds from all available sources to rebuild classrooms, offices,

labs, and workforce spaces for the CNMI community. The Foundation is seeking the CNMI private sector's support through fundraising events like the golf tournament.

Interested companies and individuals who would like to help the college with its rebuilding efforts can donate educational tax credit, cash, or in-kind contributions by visiting www.marianas.edu/golf or by contacting NMC Foundation coordinator Carla Sablan at carla.sablan@marianas.edu or (670) 237-6780.

For media inquiries, please email miguel.dandan@marianas.edu.

Golfers who would like to register for the upcoming tournament can also visit www.marianas.edu/golf. Only online payments are accepted for this upcoming golf open.

For more updates, follow Northern Marianas College on Facebook and Instagram ([nmcproa](https://www.instagram.com/nmcproa)) or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's of Saipan recently announced that it will be offering a \$3,000 cash prize for the NMC Foundation's upcoming Golf Open on March 18 and 19, 2023. From left is NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, McDonald's payroll admin Connie Medino, RJ Corp. employee Mark Russell "Johnny" Rigua, McDonald's Human Resources assistant Jessa De Jesus, and McDonald's vice president and owner/operator Marcia Erra Ayuyu.

ASAHI

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then everyone after him followed suit as they all brought in runs save for a ground out by one batter.

In the Hagu La'mun vs Aimeliik 1 Time game, Roy Tudela went 3-for-3 and assisted with batting in runs in those three innings.

The fourth inning saw the bulk of Hagu La'mun's runs come in with six—with a triple from Sidney Camacho. Only one more run was made by Richard Quitugua and the game ended early via run-mercy ruling as Aimeliik couldn't drum up a response.

Sufa 13, Wazzup 6

The heavy-hitting Sufa continued their heavy-hitting ways this season with their win against Wazzup, 13-6.

Right from the get-go, six runs were scored in the first inning with a home run by Audie

Maratita which brought in Sonny Sablan and pitcher Paul Salalia.

The middle of the lineup also put in the work and in the second inning, the top of the lineup delivered again as Salalila belted a two-run home run. Two more runs were scored for a 10-2 game.

Wazzup's Joe Lizama led off with a homerun in the first inning and Derrick Aguon got on base on an error and was brought in by Jun Lizama's basehit. But their offense fizzled out in the second inning and only four more runs came in until they were completely silenced by Sufa's pitcher until the last inning.

Tokahao 10, Tutturamz 3

Tokahao swung past Tutturamz, 10-3.

In polar opposites, Tokahao made their runs in the first three innings, while Tutturamz were only able to score in the last three.

Tan, who also won the 2018 Female Student Athlete of the Year award.

Tan won the Female Athlete of the Month awards in January and April 2022 in her sport of athletics. Tan, who is a member of New York's Fordham University cross country team, reset the NMI indoor record in the 3,000m run with her time of 10:57.58 in the Ramapo Season Opener.

The bats of Tokahao's Robert Bansil, Jeff Cruz, and Jerome Delos Santos sounded off with home runs in the first, second, and fifth inning.

Tutturamz pitcher Henry Reyes snagged a home run in the last inning but that was all they wrote as the rest of the lineup were silenced by the opposing pitcher, George David.

Man Amigos 12, Redmen 8

The Man Amigos came from behind and won against the Redmen, 12-8.

No runs were scored by the Amigos for three innings as Redmen pitcher Leo Iskawa breezed through their lineup—giving up only one hit.

However, in the fourth inning, five runs came in for the Amigos—three in the fifth, and three runs in the last—including a home run by Manny Sablan.

Two home runs were made by the Redmen's Jaime Reyes, but it wasn't enough to outscore the Amigos.

Tan also won the monthly plum in April after resetting two national records—the first one in the 5,000m run at the 56th Annual Colonia Relay in Virginia and then the 10K race in the Metropolitan Outdoor Track and Field Championships in New York. Tan later won a gold in the 10K event in the Oceania Athletics Championships and silver in the 5K.

SINCLAIR

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for constantly supporting me and pushing me to get better each day. And of course, everyone back home in the NMI for the continual support, even when I'm back in New York. I wouldn't have won this award and be here without everyone supporting me," said

GROSS

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the weekend. But we're really really excited to get the fourth quarter sports going again and start preparing for next school year."

Gross also congratulated the Saipan International School middle school varsity team for winning the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League 2022-2023 title after beating Agape Christian School, 21-10, 21-19.

"What a fantastic season. You know, to see the growth and the skill level at this 14-and-under age has astounded me. It's really been incredible to see them come along and to grow the way they have."

Gross was especially delighted by the growth of the Torchbearer players led by

coach En Yang Pang.

"It's an incredible testament to what a gymnasium can do for a school. The improvement of Agape prior to their gymnasium, opposed to Agape with a gymnasium, has simply been incredible. It's absolutely incredible the growth that they've been able to show in basketball and volleyball and any of our sports that are indoor sports."

He added that other schools should take cues on what Agape has been doing to develop its physical education department and sports program.

"You want to develop your sports programs then I highly suggest finding funding streams to fund those gymnasiums and those covered areas because it's proof that the teams that are getting access to gymnasiums are really show-

ing improvement in their play."

Gross also thanked the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association and NMSA for helping them conduct a very successful NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League 2022-2023 season.

"This is due to NMIVA's continued support and the partnership that we've crafted over the years. I really think interscholastic sports has been successful and everyone knows sports in the CNMI is bigger than any one institution and together it's really coming together. NMSA also has been fantastic at locking everything together. Finally, we're just getting to a point at which we've had a season, knock on wood, in which we have had no interruptions and the schedule of play is fantastic," he said.



**Bucks beat Suns,
clinch playoff berth
with 50th victory**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Tasi to Table revels
on student-led
derby**

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20 THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asahi, Hagu La'mun blank opponents in BASA



LEIGH GASES

Man Amigos' Bill Camacho goes after a pitch against the Redmen in their game in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Asahi and Hagu La'mun blanked their opponents in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

Asahi pitcher Dominic Hideo brought his A-game once again this season as they won against Momma Charo, 21-0; and Hagu La'mun's Joe Celis also mimicked Hideo's almost unhittable pitches as they won against Aimeliik 1 Time, 12-0.

Hideo beat Momma's lineup to a drunken stupor and they ended the game early via run-mercy ruling. They were struck out up and down the lineup and were reduced to just three hits throughout

the game.

Meanwhile, Asahi made light work of Momma's pitching and clobbered three runs in the second inning then eight in the third thanks to a home run by Hideo himself.

The fourth inning was a moment of reprieve for Momma Charo, but the battle horns were sounded again in the last inning with 10 runs scored by Asahi.

Marino Hiroichi slammed a homer and brought everyone in from the top of the lineup,

See ASAHI on Page 19



Sinclair, Tan humbled, thankful after being named top athletes

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Colin Sinclair and Tania Tan may not have been present to accept their Athlete of the Year awards during last week's 2022 NMSA Annual Sports Award Banquet, but there was certainly no absence of appreciation from the tennis and track star.

"I'd like to say that I'm very humbled to receive the award. It was an honor to represent the NMI in our home games. It was a really special experience for me to just get the opportunity to come back to the island," said Sinclair.

The current 263rd ranked player in the ATP Tour, who spent his early years on Saipan, said beside winning medals in last year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, he also was most proud of how successfully the CNMI hosted the quadrennial event.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to the Mini Games Organizing Committee for putting on an extraordinary event. Every athlete we talked to from the other islands told us that this was the 'best Games



Sinclair



Tan

yet.' From the incredible facilities to the flawless organization it truly was," said the 2022 NMSA Male Athlete of the Year.

The veteran of the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup Team also thanked longtime national tennis coach and Sports Hall of Fame inductee Jeff Race and tennis coordinator Lydia Tan for all their hard work during the Games.

"They put in countless hours before and during the Games to get the courts resurfaced and all the matches completed," said Sinclair, who also won the Male Athlete of the Year award in 2019.

Sinclair prevailed in the Mini Games men's singles event and teamed up with Robbie Schorr in the men's doubles finals win. Sinclair, Schorr, Bobby Cruz, and Colin Ramsey also topped the men's team event, while Sinclair and Isabel Herras finished with the bronze in the mixed doubles.

Tan, for her part, said she wouldn't have achieved so much in her young athletics career without the support of many people.

"I want to thank my parents, family, friends, coaches on Saipan and Fordham University, and my teammates

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Gross: It's really been a fantastic run

By MARK RABAGO
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So far so good for the calendar of interscholastic sports events for School Year 2023, according to Public School System Athletics Program director Nick Gross.

Speaking to *Saipan Tribune* after last Saturday's NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League

2022-2023 championship game, the Northern Marianas Sports Association board member said interscholastic sports is now really back.

"What a relief having the COVID-19 pandemic, you know, more or less behind us and having facilities coming back online and air-conditioning at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, so it's really been a fantastic run," he said.

Keeping his fingers crossed, Gross said the PSS Athletics Program can't wait to kick off its fourth quarter of sports activities.

"Now that we have just closed down our third quarter of sports, we have outrigger canoe next weekend and we have the big boys basketball high school tournament starting Thursday night, so it's gonna be a wild ride through

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MARK RABAGO

Public School System Athletics Program director Nick Gross, second from right, and other officials pose with players and coaches of NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League 2022-2023 runner-up team Agape Christian School after the championship game last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.